“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s Mercy... Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching it’s culmination in him.”

(Pope Francis)

In this Lenten series we will explore the concept of Mercy as an open door to the heart of God’s desire to surround us with a love so intense, we not only seek it, but we are willing to share it too!
Community of Saint Helen
1600 Rahway Avenue
Westfield, New Jersey 07090-3615
Office 908-232-1214
Fax 908-317-5459
Website: www.sainthelen.org

Pastoral Ministry
Rev. Michael A. Saporito Ext. 120.....................Pastor
Rev. Frank J. Fano Ext. 122........................Parochial Vicar
Rev. Msgr. James A. Burke .........................Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Msgr. William C. Harms.....................Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mr. Jesús Mesias Ramos Ext. 106 .............Deacon
Marilyn Ryan Ext. 113...............................Pastoral Associate

Religious Education
Mrs. Kathy Dulan Ext. 110.....................Elementary K-5
Mr. Mike Fusco Ext. 103.........................Middle School and H.S. Confirmation Program

Youth Ministry
Patti Gardner Ext. 115..............High School Youth Minister

Adult Faith Formation
Cynthia Brogan Ext. 119..........................Director

Music Ministry
Frederick Golz Ext. 121............................Director

Inter-Parochial School 908-233-0484
Sister Maureen Fichner, SSJ.....................Principal
Mrs. Leslie Lewis....Early Childhood Director (Pre-K & K)

Counseling Program
Liz Migneco, L.C.S.W. Ext. 105.................Counselor

Trustees
Mrs. Helen Guididas.................................Trustee
Mr. John Sheehan....................................Trustee

Pastoral Council
Mrs. Claudia Andreski.........................President

Celebration of the Eucharist
The Lord’s Day
Saturday - 5:30 PM
Sunday - 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30, 6:30 PM

Weekday Masses
Monday through Friday - 7:30 (except Summer) and 9:00 AM
Saturday - 9:00 AM
Holy Day - As announced in the bulletin

Reconciliation
Saturday - 4:30-5:00 PM or by appointment

Parish Library
The Library is open whenever Burke Hall is open.

Prayer Network
908-232-1214, ext 109
Please leave a message.

From the Pastor

Passion Presentation Today
I would like to take this opportunity to thank our High School Youth for their time and dedication in preparing the Passion Play for all of you today. They have worked these many weeks to prepare our beginning into this most sacred week. Thank you to each of you for giving up your weekend to be with us. Special thanks to Patti Gardner, our Youth Minister, and Bill and Nancy Baton for helping prepare the teens for this presentation.

Adoration Time on Sunday at 7:40 pm
After the 6:30 evening Mass, we will again gather as a parish community before the Blessed Sacrament to praise and adore the Lord in song, prayer and silence. This prayer experience will provide a beautiful way to enter this most sacred week. Please plan to join us for this powerful 40 minute time of prayer.

A Special Guest Coming to St. Helen’s this Tuesday
The Office of Religious Education will be hosting Steve Angrisano, a veteran musician, composer and youth minister who has been featured at seven World Youth Days and is known for engaging audiences with his unique blend of humor, song, story and interaction. Steve will be here for several programs for our Religious Education parents and their students, but he will offer a special presentation for the whole parish on Tuesday, March 22 at 7:30 pm in the church. Some of Steve’s songs that we have used at St. Helen’s include, Go Make A Difference, 10,000 Reasons and A Rightful Place.

Holy Week Schedule

Monday through Wednesday Masses at 7:30 am and 9:00 am

Holy Thursday
Morning Prayer 9:00 am
Mass of the Lord’s Supper 8:00 pm

Good Friday
Morning Prayer 9:00 am
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion with Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion 3:00 pm
Youth Contemporary Stations of the Cross with music 8:00 pm

Holy Saturday
Morning Prayer 9:00 am
Solemn Easter Vigil 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday Masses
Sunrise 6:30 am; 8:00 am in Church
9:30, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm in both Church and Parish Center

Please note: There is no 6:30 pm on Easter Sunday.

Please plan to join us during the most important celebrations of the year!

In God’s Peace and Love
Fr. Michael
### Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

**Resurrection of the Lord**

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43  
Colossians 3: 1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5: 6b-8  
John 20: 1-9

### Infant Baptism:
Celebrations are held two Sundays a month. Please contact Terry Vinanskie at the Parish Center three months before the expected birth.

### RCIA:
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process the Catholic Community provides to welcome adults who wish to become Catholic and to prepare adult Catholics to receive Confirmation (and, when needed, First Eucharist). Please contact the Parish Center for more information.

### Adult Confirmation:
Confirmation for Adults is included in the RCIA process.

### Matrimony:
Arrangements should be made one year before the proposed date of the wedding and before concluding any other arrangements, to allow sufficient time for the Marriage Preparation Program.

### Pastoral Care of the Sick:
We want to help anyone who cannot celebrate Mass with us because of illness, age or handicap. If you or a family member wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Anointing of the Sick at home, please call the Parish Center. By law, hospitals cannot notify us when parishioners are admitted. If you or a family member is hospitalized, please notify us. Urgent calls will be attended at any time of the day or night.

### Inter-Parochial School:
The Parish Community of Saint Helen, in conjunction with Our Lady of Lourdes and Holy Trinity Parishes, co-sponsors Holy Trinity Inter-Parochial School Grades K - 8 at 336 First Street, Westfield, 908-233-0484 and Grades Pre-K and K at Our Lady of Lourdes, Mountainside, 908-233-1899.

### Stewardship of Treasure

"Give and gifts will be given to you...the measure with which you measure will in turn be measured out to you.”  Luke 6:38

#### Offertory Collection 3/06/2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Budget Need</td>
<td>$27,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>$20,646.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly on-line Giving</td>
<td>$6,348.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations Mailed in</td>
<td>$1,087.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
<td>$581.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% Outreach</td>
<td>$1,404.08</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>$949,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>$1,013,880.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
<td>$64,380.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WELCOME

We invite all our parishioners to participate in our spiritual and community life. If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to one of our priests after Mass. If you would like to register as a member, please call or stop by the Parish Center.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**The Sanctuary Candle this week**

**Robert MacDonald**

**Monday, March 21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Arthur Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Jacqueline Anna Mantalato</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday, March 22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Patricia Hannis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Masralla and Reine Rizk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday, March 23**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Kenneth Valenti, Sr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday, March 24 Holy Thursday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Liturgy of the Last Supper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, March 25 Good Friday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Liturgy of the Passion and Death</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday, March 26**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>People of the Parish</td>
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**Sunday, March 27**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 AM</td>
<td>Sunrise People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Ch People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Ch People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>PC People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Ch People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>PC People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Ch People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>PC People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"Drop In" Groups Available
For Lenten Small Group Participants
Wanted to join a small group but couldn’t commit to 9 weeks? Stop by a “Drop In” group. "Drop In" groups are meeting at the Parish Center two mornings per week. Monday mornings after 9:00 am Mass in Room 112. Start time approximately 9:45 am. Monday group contact is Brother Bill Lavigne 201-259-9525 or brobillnj@yahoo.com. Thursday morning group after 9:00 am Mass in Room 101, start time approximately 9:45 am. Thursday morning contact is Ellen Murphy 908-322-8111 or ellenmurphy811@gmail.com. Please note: if the Parish Center is closed there will be no small group meetings at the Parish Center.

St. Helen’s New Care Ministry
Our mission as a Catholic Care Ministry is to further the healing ministry of Jesus by continually improving the care, health and well-being of all people in the communities we serve. Initially we would like to provide:
transportation to Mass or appointments
visitation to shut-ins
occasional meals
health-related educational programs
To accomplish this, we are hoping to create a team of volunteers who are willing to continue the mission of St Helen’s to “Serve others by supporting, comforting and assisting those in need.” If this Care Ministry touches your heart and you would like to be a part of this new venture, please contact either Susan Dodge at 908-233-0021 or susanamdodge@gmail.com or Janice Meister at 908-301-0044 or jammeister@msn.com.

Non Perishable Food
For my Confirmation Service Project I will be collecting non-perishable food that will be donated to the Hillside Community Food Bank. There is a box located in the Burke Hall for all donations until March 20. Thank you for your support. Sarah Travers.

HTIS News
Celebrate Earth Day 2016
Annual Earth Day-We Care! Poster Contest April 22
Help educate our community about the importance of caring for our Earth by designing a poster. Judging and display of the artwork will take place in the Holy Trinity School Westfield Campus on Friday April 22 from 2:30 to 4pm. (336 1st St, Westfield). Ribbons and certificates will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category. The most creative in each category will also get an Earth Day t-shirt and a starter planting kit and have their artwork displayed in the Trailside Center at their Earth Day Celebration on April 24. The contest is open to all Westfield and Mountainside children. Visit www.facebook.com/htish for full contest rules and deadlines.

-Students at both HT campuses are preparing for Easter during this Lenten season. The PreK-4 class is doing 40 acts of kindness during Lent. They are filling four Easter Baskets with 10 acts of kindness. Each 10 acts of kindness warrant a reward of a special snack for the students.
-Mrs. Boyle’s PreK-3 classroom is filling up with painted rainbows, cut paper shamrocks and finger painted shamrocks made from mixing blue and yellow. They are also getting ready for Easter with hand painted patterned Easter eggs.
-The primary grades are learning about the Stations of the Cross with an age appropriate video and the fifth through eighth graders will watch some of their classmates perform the Living Stations.
-The preschoolers and kindergarteners at the Mountainside Campus will also enjoy the Bunny part of Easter with an Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds.

-Looking for a strong faith based Early Childhood Program? There are a few places still open. Please call 908-233-1899 for tours and information about the full day Pre-K and Kindergarten Program. Call 908-233-0484 for information about the HT elementary and middle school classes at the Westfield Campus.

WOMEN’S DAY OF REFLECTION
Come join other women and discover that You Are A Be-Attitude Woman
Saturday, April 23, 2016 9:30 am – 2:30
Name: ________________________________ Phone: ________________________________
Street Address: ________________________________ Town: ________________________________
Email Address: ________________________________

Please make all $20.00 registration checks payable to St. Helen’s. Drop off at Parish Center or mail to:
St. Helen’s Church
1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090
Attention: Day of Reflection (Maria Lombardi)
First Communion Information

All First Communion children will attend a Retreat on March 12 or March 19 from 9 to 11:30 or from 1:00 to 3:30 in the Parish Center. First Communion Children will make banners to mark their rows. The banner materials will be available at the Retreats on March 12 and March 19. These banners may be done at home or in class. This is the teacher’s decision.

On April 18 from 3:30 to 6:30 chalices will be formed out of clay and on April 20 from 3:30 to 6:30 the chalices will be painted. The Parish Community of Saint Helen Welcomes

Steve Angrisano
in the Parish Center Gym *
1600 Rahway Ave. Westfield, NJ 07090
All Are Welcome to Attend!

Monday, March 21, 2016
3:30 to 5 PM – Chosen 7th grade students and families
7 to 8:30 PM – Chosen 8th grade students and families

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
3:30 to 5 PM – All Grades 1 to 6 and family members
* 7:30 to 9 PM – in church - Archdioceses of Newark Youth Ministers, and all members of Saint Helen’s Parish

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
3:30 to 5 PM – Chosen 8th grade students and families
7 to 8:30 PM – Chosen 7th grade students and families

To offset the cost of bringing Steve to our parish, we are asking for a donation of $5.00 per student. You may bring the $5.00 to your next class or Chosen session. We will have a collection box at all shows. Any questions regarding the shows by Steve Angrisano or the fee of $5.00, please contact Mike Fusco at mfusco@sainthelen.org, by phone at 908-232-1214, x103 or by cell/ text at 908-265-2169.

Youth Ministry News

Grades 9 - 12
Patti 232–1214 ext 115
pgardner@sainthelen.org

Shelter: Weekly visits to the shelter we visit every Tuesday after school in Edison has resumed. We leave St. Helen’s by 3:20 and return by 6 PM. Please have a parent fill out a permission slip on-line and call or stop by the office to let us know you are coming.

Good Friday: Youth Ministry Contemporary Stations of the Cross will Music will take place in candlelight in the church at 8 am. All are invited and welcome to attend.

A very special thank you to Bill Baton for his help with directing the Passion Play, to Nancy Baton for her assistance coaching the “narrator” and all of our youth that participated: Connor Abrams (Caiaphas), Catie Barry, Robert Brown (Jesus), Andrew Caminiti (Judas), Jake Cullen (soldier), Jeff Hoens (soldier), Zoe Garceau, Meghan Hrinkевич (Mary of Magdalene), Peter Hunziker (Pilate’s Aide), Paul Jakobovic (Narrator), Deidre Kelly, AJ Kornberger (Joseph of Arimetha), Rionach McEwen (Mary, Mother of God), Matthew Meusel (Pilate), Nick Nolan, Anthony Scalia (Peter), Daniel Scalia (Pharisee), Kery Travers and Sarah Travers.

JR/SR Retreat: April 23-24, 2016 in LBI! The Jr/Sr Retreat will be held once again “on the beach” at Maris Stella in LBI! Forms and information can be found on our website or at the Parish Center Reception Desk! This retreat is open to all Juniors and Seniors in High School. You DO NOT have to be a Peer Minister to attend!

Service Opportunity at Public Library

The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library are holding their 43rd annual book sale in late April and offer service hours for high school students - light lifting and shelving book donations April 21 through April 30, after school or on weekends. Interested? contact wmlvolunteers@gmail.com indicating the times available and phone number. Adult volunteers also welcome.

Linens and Children’s Clothing Collection

My name is Muriel and for my Confirmation Service Project I am collecting linens and children’s clothing for Furniture Assist in Springfield, NJ. Items for collection are: used or new clean bed pillows, comforters, bedspreads, blankets, towels, and children’s clothing. Please consider donating whatever you can as all these items go to families and individuals in need. Linens can be stained as those will sometimes go to animal shelters. You can place your items in the boxes outside my house (89 Summit Court) which is right near St. Helen’s, before April 1. If there are questions call 908-230-7588. Thank you!

K2J Ministry News – Grades 2 – 5
Alesia Porter - npporters@comcast.net

Christ Centered Crochet Club – 4Cs accepts yarn donations on a continuous basis. Drop off box is in Meaney Hall.

This ministry meets the first and third Sundays of the month from 12:15 – 2 pm in the Parish Center Youth Room to knit infant hats for babies in crisis. Upcoming meeting dates – 3/20, 4/3 and 4/17

Thanks to all the yarn donations and the 4Cs dedicated members the Club was able to donate 101 red hats to Newark Beth Israel Hospital in February in partnership with the American Heart Association!
Imagine Amazing – the Call to Prayer
What a great way to begin the week! Our on-going Sunday evenings of Eucharistic prayer will be continue on March 20, immediately following the 6:30 pm Mass (approx. 7:35 pm). Join us as we begin a new time in our Church! We want to put Christ first in all our plans and activities. Let’s pray for our parish and the people we love and all the missing who we want to welcome back and serve. You can come for a few minutes or for the whole time (45 min max), you can come if you have never been to a time of prayer like this before. There will be times of praise, quiet reflection time and prayer. We encourage individuals, and small groups and our youth to join in with us!
Future 2016 evenings will be April 17, May 15 and June 12.

12: A Support Group
A support group for those impacted by a loved one abusing alcohol or drugs meets weekly on Monday evenings at the Parish Center at 7:30 pm. Any questions call 908-232-1189. Confidentiality respected.

Pray for peace in the world. Pray the Rosary.

Bulletin Submissions
Items for the Sunday Bulletin can be e-mailed to sthelenbulletin@hotmail.com. Please use the word “Bulletin” on the subject line. Please keep your item as brief as possible because of space limitations. Items may also be faxed to Saint Helen’s at 908-317-5459. Deadline is normally Friday, one week prior to publication date.

Welcome to our Parish!
I am interested in renewing my faith as a Catholic
I am interested in becoming a Catholic
I am interested in becoming involved in my Parish
Please pray for ____________________________________________
Other ____________________________________________

Please include your contact information below:
Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
Phone Nos: ____________________________________________
E-Mail: ____________________________________________

5th, 25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
The Archdiocese of Newark will honor those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating their 5th, 25th and 50th years of Christian marriage in the year 2016. These Liturgies will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

5 and 25 years
April 24 – 3:00 pm
(Deadline to reserve April 10)

50 years
May 1 – 3:00 pm
(Deadline to reserve April 18)

If you are a parishioner and wish to register, please call Gail Laughlin at the Parish Center at 908-232-1214, 116.

Caregiver Counseling
Union Co. residents who are providing care for an elderly person are eligible for 8 free sessions with a mental health counselor who can assist with working through issues associated with the difficulties of being a caregiver. The caregiver may feel that he/she is not doing enough or perhaps is overwhelmed because of time required to get things done. Perhaps they need to be made aware of the resources available to them in the community. If you are interested in these sessions, call 908-497-3900. Sessions can be held in the caregiver’s home or in the Catholic Charities office at 505 South Avenue E., Cranford.

Keeping Connected To Your Faith...
• www.cruuxnow.com, Crux strives to cover the worldwide institution of the Roman Catholic Church, from the papacy to the hierarchy to local dioceses.
• Relevant radio WNSW 1430 AM out of Newark, talk radio for Catholic life and faith.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Many Opportunities...
...are offered for our parishioners to grow, learn, share, expand their spiritual lives. Our parish gathers in many different types of activities and groups, including Blue Horizons, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Peace and Justice committee, Kids Corner, Media Ministry, 25:35 Welcome Ministry, Service Auction, Small Sharing Groups, Prison Ministry, Music Ministry, Pre-Cana and Baptism Teams, Adult Enrichment programs, the “ChristLife” series, Cornerstone retreats, Prayer Network, Children’s Liturgies, Outreach (soup kitchen, transportation, blood drive, surplus grocery pickups, holiday giving projects), Women's Day of Reflection, Funeral Ministry, K2J children’s social and service events, various support groups, Breakfast With Santa, RCIA, Respect Life activities, Pasta Night, Youth activities, something for everyone. Come! Give us a try!
Please pray for those who are sick:


Free Support Program For Children & Their Parents
- RAINBOWS is an international non-profit organization fostering emotional healing among children and their parents who are adjusting to a life altering crisis, due to death, divorce, separation, illness, or other painful family transitions. Rainbows trained facilitators, using age-appropriate curriculum establish peer support in an environment of unconditional group acceptance and strict confidentiality. Groups offer awareness of feelings, including naming, expressing, and managing them and work toward appropriate coping mechanisms, strengthening problem solving skills, management of anger, and encouragement of positive behavior while reconciling their loss.

Rainbows is available in Westfield on Monday nights at Holy Trinity Schools from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm for 7 sessions, from March 14 to May 9, for children ages 5 to 13, and adults who have children registered in the program. Rainbows programs are for children from all economic, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. To register for Spring 2016 visit the Rainbows web site at www.westfieldrainbows.org or alternatively email rainbowshelp@gmail.com or contact Anne Koons at 908-233-2555

Respect Life Notes

“In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, also called confession, we meet the Lord, who wants to grant forgiveness and the grace to live a renewed life in him.”

— “God’s Gift of Forgiveness: A Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation”, USCCB

For Respect Life events, please visit the Archdiocesan website: www.rcan.org/life/

Making Music Praying Twice - Music and Movement For the Catholic Child 0-5 years old

Come with your little ones for weekly music education classes! Sing, dance, pray and play games, chant rhymes and play instruments! Tuition is $93, with a family maximum of $147, and includes 9 classes, 1 Spring Easter-Pentecost Season CD. If your family attended the SPRING SESSION in 2013 the cost of materials ($12) should be deducted from the cost of tuition. Classes begin April 5 and end June 1, and will be offered on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Classes are limited to 12 children and run 45-60 minutes. Please visit our website and/or contact Cindy Brogan for additional information at 908-873-1993 or cbrogan@sainthelen.org.

Name of Adult attending class:_________________________ Phone _________________ Parishioner? Y N

Email ___________________________ Names/Ages of children attending: ___________________________

Circle one: Class Preference: Tuesday 10:30 am Wednesday 10:30 am

Cost is $93 per child. Maximum family tuition is $147. Infants born on or after 10/05/15 are free with paid sibling. Make checks payable to St. Helen’s Church. Return this form to the Parish Center, Attn: Cindy Brogan with payment by March 31, 2016. For information contact Cindy Brogan at cbrogan@sainthelen.org or call 908-873-1993.
### Parish Mission Statement

The Parish Community of St. Helen is a Roman Catholic Church dedicated to

- **Worshipping God**
  by sharing the saving message of Jesus Christ

- **Serving Others**
  by supporting, comforting and assisting those in need

- **Making Disciples**
  by fostering the spiritual growth of all its people

#### STRATEGY

St. Helen’s Church has the most registered families in its history, yet currently, we report a pattern of lower Mass attendance.

- Our strategy is to make Church matter to our parishioners.
- Central to our plan is to make Sunday Eucharist the source and summit of our faith community as envisioned by the Second Vatican Council.
- We commit ourselves to providing a weekend message that is relevant and well-prepared.
- We commit ourselves to music that inspires the hearts of those who join us while encouraging active participation among all.
- We commit ourselves to the children of our parish by inviting them to age appropriate experiences of faith formation.
- We commit ourselves to reaching out to inactive parishioners, encouraging those who attend Mass to engage in ministry and spiritual growth, and challenging dedicated disciples to invite newcomers to our community.

#### VALUES

- As a Roman Catholic faith community, we are shaped by both God’s Word and our Sacred Traditions as handed on to the successors of the Apostles.
- The Eucharist and the Sacraments are central to our faith. We value ongoing conversion to Jesus Christ. Daily prayer, scripture readings, small group participation and ministry are the desired goals of all our members. We aim to make disciples.
- We believe that service to others flows from our call to discipleship. We believe in serving those in our parish community, in our surrounding area, as well as those in special need in our country and in the world.
- We believe in a missionary spirit.
- We have a special place for those that are searching for a Catholic faith community where they will find a warm welcome, personal pastoral care, and faith development opportunities that are of high quality. We love seekers.

### Mobile Meals of Westfield

Would you like to help pack or deliver nutritious meals to those in need of help? Call 908-233-6146 or e-mail mobilemealswestfield@hotmail.com to volunteer or if you have questions.

### Men’s Lenten Prayer Breakfast

The Men’s Lenten Prayer Breakfast will meet this March 16 and all Wednesdays of Lent at 6:00 am in Room 102 of the Parish Center. Come and join us for an hour of prayer, Gospel reflection and fellowship with other men of the Parish. Feel free to bring a friend. Any questions can be directed to Brian 908-230-5183. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

### Women’s Morning Out With God

Come and join other women of the parish after the 9 AM Mass each Wednesday morning during Lent. We will be listening to the readings for the coming Sunday to heighten our awareness of how they speak to each one of us individually in our own lives. Come listen and learn with us. What does God want me to hear today? For more information call Peggy Walsh at 908-499-7667. See you on March 16.

### Pastoral Care of the Sick

We want to help anyone who cannot celebrate Mass with us because of illness, age or handicap. If you or a family member wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Anointing of the Sick at home, please call 908-232-1214. By law, hospitals cannot notify us when parishioners are admitted. If you or family members are hospitalized, please notify us. Urgent calls will be attended at any time.

### Birth Parents Must Take Action to Preserve Their Privacy

For well over a century, the Catholic Church in New Jersey has provided adoption services. Throughout all those years, the Church promised to honor the privacy of birth parents and adoptees. That promise of privacy also was assured by law and affirmed by the State Superior Court. Those promises can no longer be kept. On May 27, 2014, a new law took effect that will allow adoptees and certain relatives to request and obtain the names of their biological parents beginning January 1, 2017.

Any birth parents who wish to preserve their privacy must submit a **Redaction Request Form** to the New Jersey Department of Health no later than December 31, 2016. By filing this form, birth parents will be able to keep their names off any documents provided by the State to adoptees or anyone else. The State made the **Redaction Request Form** public on August 3, 2015. The form can be downloaded at [http://nj.gov/health/forms/reg-36c.pdf](http://nj.gov/health/forms/reg-36c.pdf).

If you know a person who placed a child in adoption, please tell them that if they do not file a **Redaction Request Form**, their name and other information could be given to the adoptee. Anyone needing assistance can call a HELPLINE at 609-989-4809.

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**Travelling? Find Mass times at [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org)**
Lenten Retreats at Benedictine Center
"Holy Week Retreat for Women" at Benedictine Sisters in Elizabeth, NJ will center on the liturgy of each day. The retreat begins at 4 pm Holy Thursday until 1:30 pm Easter Sunday. $200. Registration required. 908-353-3028.

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, Watchung
Registration required for all programs.
Call 908-753-2091 or e-mail: msmhope@msmhope.org

My Heart Burns Within Me: April Faith Sharing
Journey with other faith-filled disciples as we share our prayer experiences over these five weeks. Each session will include a brief opening and closing prayer and sharing on scripture we pray during the week. This faith sharing group is open to anyone who can commit to the five weeks. This program will help us see the unique ways God works in our lives and how we respond to God's invitations. A minimum of 10 participants is required for this month.
Fridays: April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 9:30-11 am ($100-$150 As You Are Able) Facilitator: Laura M. Arvin, OP

Find Mass Times
Go to www.masstimes.org and search by zip code, address or country. Or call 1-410-676-6000 and enter the zip code.

Easter Memorial
Easter will soon be upon us and we are again offering you an opportunity to remember your loved ones during our joyous celebration of the risen Christ. We will place their names on our traditional memorial scroll, which may be viewed in the vestibule of the church during the Easter season. The contributions will be used for our decorations in the church and parish center - flowers, trees, banners, etc. Our sincere appreciation for your continued support and generosity. May the presence of the Risen Lord fill your hearts, and may his blessings be with you and your family during this holy season.

Rev. Michael A. Saporito
Rev. Frank J. Fano

Please return this form to the Parish Center by March 23, 2016

Please print legibly.

Names: ________________________________

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______________________________

______________________________

Your Name: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________ Donation: $ ___________