

## Shared Ministries & Events

### Dear Friends:

This week we will be taking up our second annual collection for the **Works of Mercy Initiative of Schenectady County**. On November 16, we held our first event, gathering ministers of pastoral care from throughout the deanery. We discussed the great needs that exist in our community and our excitement at meeting those needs by working together across parish boundaries. It was a great first step in an initiative which promises many great things. Our next goal is to hire a part time person to coordinate the ministers and the ministries so vital to our life as a Catholic community. Please be generous in giving to the Works of Mercy Initiative so that the hungry might be fed, the thirsty given drink, the sick, imprisoned and lonely visited and the sorrowing consoled.

The **Deanery Reconciliation Service** will be held on **December 12th** at St. Anthony's Church, 331 Seward Place in Schenectady. We will have two services at 1pm and 7pm to allow as many people as possible to take advantage of the sacrament in this holy season of Advent. There will be no other Reconciliation Service held at either Our Lady of Fatima or St. Helen's. Of course, Fr. Bob will be available for Reconciliation after the 9am mass on Fridays at Our Lady of Fatima and 3:30pm on Saturdays at St. Helen's.

**New Translation** - Often in the Preface of the new translation of mass, when we had said, with Angels and Archangels and all the choirs of angels, we now name some of those choirs. They are basically angels of differing rank in the angelic hierarchy. From highest to lowest, they go Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. If you have any questions about the new translation, email us and we will gladly answer them.

**Fr. Bob**

### Religious Education (Grades K-5)

We will not have class this week because of the Christmas Breakfast. Please come and see Santa!

We only have 2 classes left before the end of the year! We are hoping to have another Epiphany pageant on Jan. 8th. The pageant will take place at the 8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima. Any child from either parish is welcome to participate. Please contact Pat Policastro at 370-0027 or [ffk5@olfatima.cc](mailto:ffk5@olfatima.cc) by December 6th.

**Our Lady of Fatima:** Pat Policastro 370-0027  
**St. Helen's:** Kris Rooney 377-3119

### Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

- Don't forget to visit our **Christmas Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 4th from 9am-1pm** inside St. Helen's gym! Adults \$5, children (under 12) \$3, family \$15.
  - Reminder: **Confirmation Prep II** (11th grade) will meet **Sun., Dec. 4th from 6-7:30pm** at OLF in the church.
  - Order forms for fresh Christmas Trees are on the Youth Ministry bulletin boards or see the insert in today's bulletin.
  - All families are welcome to join us on **Dec. 11th at 5:45pm at St. Paul's Church for a Deanery Youth/Family Mass!**
  - YM sessions will resume next weekend, Dec. 11th & 12th.
  - Congratulations to Ken Parow, Joscelyn Gwinn, Cecilia Holodak, Tara McDonald, Alex Yunker, & Maggie McDonough who made a Journey Retreat for their commitment to faith and to the Lord!
- **Anna Denney** 377-3119 [youth1803@gmail.com](mailto:youth1803@gmail.com)
  - **Lisa Kuban** 370-0027 [ym612@olfatima.cc](mailto:ym612@olfatima.cc)

### Adult Faith Enrichment

Would you like to understand the Bible readings that are used on Sunday at Mass? Come to a Scripture/Prayer group: Sharing faith, insights and questions can be invigorating and fun! We meet on Tuesday at 4:00pm OR 7pm (the RCIA process) OR Thursday at 1pm at Fatima's Community Room. (\*\*Note the day change for RCIA.)

**Do you know someone who has not been attending church and might want to return?** Invite them to consider Landings - flyers are available in the churches.

**MIDNIGHT MASS** will feature our **high school and college aged people** sharing their amazing talents. If you would like to participate in the choir, sing a solo or play an instrument, please let us know. It would be a great Christmas gift to your faith community. Rehearsal is scheduled for 5pm on Thursday December 22nd with music beginning at 11:15pm on Christmas Eve, Please contact the office or email Fr. Bob at [frbob1803@gmail.com](mailto:frbob1803@gmail.com) if you are interested.

# Saint Helen's

# Mass Intentions


Place  
Magnet  
Here

Masses held at **Our Lady of Fatima Church** are shaded.


Masses held at **St. Helen's Church** are not shaded



Time is running out to select a tag from our **Bethlehem Tree**. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** There are still many unclaimed tags on our tree. Why not take one or two. Please **return gifts unwrapped (with tags) by Sunday, Dec. 11th**. The agencies need to pick up their gifts next week and we need time to sort them. If you have any questions, please contact Carol at 393-0918. Thank you for helping to make someone's Christmas more merry.



**Welcome to St. Helen's Parish:** Seung & Mi-sook An, William & Tracie Gurney, Albert & Andrea Montillo, Michael & Andrea Rodriguez and Lisa Williams.



**DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary may be made in memory of a loved one or for an anniversary. An acknowledgement will be placed in a future bulletin. Please place your contribution and intention in an envelope and place it in the weekly collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office.

**Urgent Need for Volunteers** to take Communion to Sunnyview on Thursdays on a rotating basis (about once every 5 or 6 weeks) and to Ellis Hospital as part of our Communion teams. Please contact Bob Christoffel to volunteer 372-8260.

The **St. Helen's Social Justice Committee** will meet on Thursday, **December 8**, at 7:00 in the Parish Center.

<b>ST. HELEN'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS</b>		
Week of: 12/10-12/11	<u>Saturday 4:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 10:00am</u>
<b>READERS:</b>	Henry Fernandez Tricia Ford	Mickie Baldwin Nancy Barkowski
<b>SERVERS:</b>	Daniel Bellcourt Daniel Kellish Nicole Mariotti Mila Stafford	Matthew Nicpon Anka Parzych Mateo Parzych Tim Rice
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:</b>	Team II	Team II

St. Helen's Parish Support	This year's collection	Last year's collection
11/20/11	\$8,265.	\$9,337.
Campaign for Human Development	\$1,408.	\$1,201.
11/27/11	\$9,075.	\$6,680.

<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/3</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
4:30	p.m.	Sean Valero (Kellish Family) Joseph Early (Early Family)
<b>SUN</b>	<b>12/4</b>	
8:30	a.m.	Bob Goodwin (Joe & Lisa)
10:00	a.m.	Natalie Carroll-Tuttle (Traci Johnson & Family) Choy Chin & Shirley Chin (Family)
11:30	a.m.	Jack Van Kamerik (Wife, Irene) Angelo Marotta (Grace Riccobono) Jane Cicciu (Gloria Conde)
<b>MON</b>	<b>12/5</b>	
9:00	a.m.	Intentions for the People
<b>TUES</b>	<b>12/6</b>	<b>St. Nicholas</b>
9:00	a.m.	Frances Armano (Paul Chlopecki) Gail Corsi & Frances Quinn ((Patricia Early)
<b>WED</b>	<b>12/7</b>	
7:00	p.m.	Vigil-Intentions for the People
<b>THUR</b>	<b>12/8</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
7:00	a.m.	Intentions for the People
9:00	a.m.	Intentions for the People
12:10	p.m.	Intentions for the People
<b>FRI</b>	<b>12/9</b>	<b>St. Juan Diego</b>
9:00	a.m.	Intentions for the People
<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
4:30	p.m.	Deceased Members of Parrotta & Pomeroy Families (Family) Anthony Runfola (Family)
<b>SUN</b>	<b>12/11</b>	
8:30	a.m.	John & Maryangela Piccirillo (Carol & Angelo Piccirillo) Mr. & Mrs. Nguyen K. Doan (Family) Bob Goodwin (Jim & Judy Burns) Elsie Bertolino (Children)
10:00	a.m.	Dorothy Gale & Donald Flynn (Maureen Versaci) Christopher Ryan (Mae & Jim Burgess)
11:30	a.m.	Sharon Farhart (Daughter, Celeste) Dominick Conde (Daughter, Gloria) Bob Goodwin (Ken Brown) Angela Catrambone (Family)

## Shared Ministries (continued)



**Joint Senior/Memories Group Christmas Luncheon** will be held on **Wednesday, December 14**, at **11:30am** at Our Lady of Fatima's Parish Center. Entertainment by NDBG. Menu is roasted chicken, sausage/peppers, ziti, green beans, dessert and beverages. **RSVP by Dec. 9th**. Cost is \$12.00pp. Make checks payable to: St. Helen's Church. Hope to see you

**FAIR TRADE/ALTERNATIVE GIVING SALE CONTINUES.** The second round of the Fair Trade/Alternative Giving sale continues next week on **Sunday Dec. 11th in St. Helen's School Gym from 9:00 to 1:00.**

The sale offers a great alternative to mall shopping and an opportunity to purchase gifts that will give beyond the recipient. Gifts are available that will assist those in need worldwide and in our local communities. For last minute shoppers, **the final sale will be held Sun. Dec. 18th.**

In conjunction with the Fair Trade / Alternative Giving Sales, the Social Justice committee will be hosting Parish Coffees after 10:00 mass at St. Helen's on Dec. 11th and 18th. Please stop by for some Fair Trade coffee to sip while you visit and browse our vendors.



**MARY'S ADVENT YES!** Advent is a wonderful season to reflect on Mary's "Yes!" to the mystery of God in her life. Come and allow Mary's trust and love to inspire us to a greater surrender to the Mystery of Love. Sr. Ellen Guerin, RSM, MA will be offering this wonderful Advent program **following the 7:00pm Mass at Our Lady of Fatima on December 7th.**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE.** Christmas cards, featuring parishioner, Peg Giedraitis' Christmas wall hangings that are now hanging in the OLF Church, will be available for purchase (12 cards for \$10.00) following both masses at St. Helen's Church this weekend. After that, they will be available at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Offices. All proceeds will benefit SICM.

**SISTER PARISH NEWS.** This January, our Dental Team will again travel to Mexico to hold dental clinics at our Sister Parish, San Agustin. Our brothers and sisters there are greatly in need of this service, as access to dental care is extremely limited. Every year, the team brings toothbrushes to distribute to the villagers. To that end, the Sister Parish Committee is again asking for toothbrush donations. Look for collection boxes in the church foyers in December and January.

## Our Lady of Fatima



**WE WELCOME** into our Christian Community Jesse Natalie son of Ryan & Ashley Natalie.

**REMINDER:** All Advent Tree gifts are due back on the December 11th by the 11:30 Mass.



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Our Lady of Fatima Parish Support	This Week's Collection	Weekly Budget	Difference
11/20/2011	\$6,766.60	\$7,140.00	-\$373.40
11/27/2011	\$7,354.01	\$7,140.00	+\$214.01
Campaign for Human Development	2011 \$1,045.40	2010 \$1,182.55	

## Shared Ministries (continued)

**A Family Perspective**

**by Bud Ozar**

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

**Let us Remember the Sick in our Prayers:** Mark Barsotti, Mary Grace Doherty, Tom Grogan, Stacey Hopkins, Ruth Janiec, Eileen Kilrain, Edward Kleinkauf, Liam Lambeth, Pat Moskwa, Mary Catherine Muccigrosso, Kevin Olsen, Marian Smialek.

### Scripture Readings for Next Sunday:

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24;  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Gospel of the Week:** Mark 1:1-8

**Question for Adults and Children** - How are you preparing the way for the coming of the Lord?

## Community News

The Pueblo to People Committee of St. Thomas Church in Delmar invites all to a Mass and Fiesta in honor of OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, on Friday evening, December 9th. Serenade will begin at 6 pm. Mass, to be celebrated in Spanish and English, will begin at 6:30 pm. Children and teens in ethnic or festive attire are invited to participate in a procession. After Mass, the fiesta will feature folkloric music and dancing, and dishes to share.

Olga Lomelin, a friend of our Sister Parish Committee, has gifted us with a traveling image of OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE. The "Pilgrim Queen Shrine" is housed in a lovely 8" by 12" by 2" box, which opens for display on a shelf, table, or mantle. After being blessed by Father Bob on Saturday, Dec. 3rd, this beautiful little shrine is available to families who wish to pray with it in their homes. If you are interested in hosting the pilgrim image, an accurate reproduction of the original miraculous one, in your home for a visit, call Linda Triplett, a member of the Sister Parish Committee, at 783-7701.

**Breakfast Fundraiser.** St. Gabriel's Church, 3040 Hamburg Street, is having a Breakfast Fundraiser on December 11th from 8 AM - 12 PM (noon) in the school gym. We will be serving: eggs and omelets (any way you like), pancakes, bacon, sausage, toast, home fries, coffee, tea, juice, and milk. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 10 years of age. Come join the fun, fellowship and a great breakfast while supporting St. Gabriel's.

**Thank you to our Sponsor:  
Kennedy Optical**

**1675 Providence Ave.  
377-2144**



## Calendar of Events

Items in Blue take place at Our Lady of Fatima.  
Black type, indicates St. Helen's Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>12/4</b> 9:00am-1:00pm Breakfast with Santa 6:00pm BB	<b>12/5</b> 7:45pm Volleyball	<b>12/6</b> 3:00pm Rosary 4:00pm Scripture Group. 7:00pm RCIA
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>12/7</b>	<b>12/8 Immaculate Conception</b> 1:00pm Scripture Group 6:00pm Karate	<b>12/9</b> 3:00pm-7:00pm Christmas Tree Sale
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	COMING
<b>12/10</b> 11:00am-6:00pm Christmas Tree Sale	<b>12/11 RE/YM</b> 11:00am-3:00pm Christmas Tree Sale	<b>Wed. 12/14</b> 11:30am Senior/Memories Christmas Luncheon