



3rd Sunday of Advent

Behold, I am sending
my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.

Matthew 11:10



ST. HELEN

1600 South Avenue O, Portales, New Mexico 88130

Email: sthelenofportales@gmail.com

www.Sthelenportales.org

Church Office: 575-356-4241, Fax 575-359-1721

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-5:00 pm; Closed Friday

As disciples of Jesus in the universal Church we are called to become in Jesus' own words "a house of prayer for all peoples."

Thus we welcome all, the stranger, the lost, those who have never known Jesus and those who have fallen away for whatever reason. We seek to spread the full gospel: "Woe to us if we don't spread the gospel."

Our practical goal is to utilize and dispense the seven sacraments as instruments of God's sanctification and healing, under the guidance of the Archbishop of Santa Fe.

We set our sights on mature Christian witness for the building up of God's spiritual house, the new people of God that He has chosen to be his own, and chosen to announce His praises.

Our prayer is to become committed disciples of our Lord Jesus and become "a house of prayer for all peoples."

Pastor: Rev. Francisco Carbajal

Deacons: Roberto Herrera & Paul M. Benoit

Office Secretary/Bookkeeper: Emma Britton

Maintenance: Pete Salas

Emergency Only Number 575-226-5764

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	4:00 pm	English
Sunday	9:00 am	English
	12:00 pm	Español
	5:00 pm	English

Daily Mass At Chapel, on 1608 W. 17th St.

Monday, Thursday & Friday - 8:00 a.m. - English

Wednesday 6:00 pm *Español*

RECONCILIATION/RECONCILIACIÓN

Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m.

Wednesday 5:00pm-5:45pm

SACRAMENTS/ SACRAMENTOS

Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion, Marriage: Contact the Parish Office for details.

Bautismo, Confirmación, Primera Comunión, Matrimonio: Para mayor información hablar a la oficina. Ofrecemos todos los Sacramentos en dos idiomas.

BLESSED SACRAMENT EXPOSITION/ EXPOSICIÓN DEL SANTISIMO

Wednesday/Miércoles 5:00 p.m. y 7:00 p.m.

Thursday & Friday/Jueves y viernes 7:00 a.m.

Saturday/Sábado 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday/Domingo 6:30-7:30 p.m.

ROSARY/ROSARIO

Saturday 9:00 am, Praying of the Holy Rosary for the unborn every first Saturday of the month.

PARISH LIFE - APOSTOLADO

Director of Religious Education - Sylvia Baca

Bereavement Ministry- Carol Vigil 356-4241

Ministerio de despojo Cindy Ortega 693-8556

Cursillo Simon Nunez 760-6524

RCIC/RCIA Becky Lopez 356-4241

Renee Neely 356-6498

Finance Council President Paul Benoit 760-9002

SHYG/Life Teen: Francisco Lopez & Adrianna

Garcia—575-356-4241

Thomas More Newman Ctr. Steven Brust 356-4241

Altar Servers Guild Damari Jimenez

Thur Morn Bible Study Mary Murray 575-359-0017

Saint Vincent de Paul: *Closed until further notice*

LOCAL CATHOLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Catholic Daughters -Tanya Baca 575-799-1982

Knights of Columbus-Jose Montoya 505-967-1329

CHOIRS: Macario Saiz 356-6238

Mario Aguirre 359-5657

Grupo Santa Helena 356-4241

Jesus Ollervides 356-4241

Would you ever want to be Catholic?

We welcome all inquires.

Te gustaría ser Católico?

Nosotros recibimos todas sus inquietudes.

3^o Domingo de Adviento

Yo voy
a enviar mi
mensajero delante
de ti, para que te
preceda abriéndote
el camino.
Mateo 11, 10



For the week of December 14—December 21, 2025

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent Pg 116

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Monday Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

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

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

Saturday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent Pg 120

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 13, 2025

4:00 pm

†Margaret Torres by Berto & Neva Ortega
 †Orlando & Celia Ortega by Berto & Neva Ortega
 †Mable Romero by the Catholic Daughters
 Birthday blessings for Gregory Benoit by Deacon & Lucia Benoit

Sunday, December 14, 2025

9:00 am

†Fernando Padilla by Troy & Maxine McCollum
 †Juan & Estefanita Baca by Rebecca Pullen
 †Nick, Jimbo & Ysidro Baca by Rebecca Pullen

12:00 pm

†Tomas, Juana y Socorro Sanchez por la familia
 †Dorothy & Jerry Montoya by Raymond Montoya & family
 †Ramon, Rita & Irene Montoya by Raymond Montoya & family

5:00 pm

†



Stewardship for the week of:

December 6-7, 2025

Regular-\$6,170.35

Building Fund-\$1,128.06

Children-\$79.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!



Pray for the Sick

Dora Arguello

Isabel Villegas

Dennis Aragón

Arely Mald

Denna Russell

Manuel Gallegos Jr

Nina Sanchez

Alianna Sanchez

John Campbell

Peter Morrison

Honorio Castillo

Alex Jiménez

Armando Moriel

Antonia Marez

Nestor Hernandez

Theresa Zarbraugh

Sandra Boni

Luis Jr. Fierro

Rosa Serano

Krista Martinez

Sebastian Duran

Terry Encinias

Gabriel Velasquez

Laura Gonzalez

Judy Valdez

Emma Ribera

Israel Soto

Caron Powers

Ralph Gallegos Jr.

Carlos Espinoza

Luz Navarette

Tom Hebert

Gary Jaramillo

Cecelia Chavez

Mason Stansel

Lillie Stansel

Andy Cox



Sanctuary Candle

For our St. Helen Parishioners who are Sick





JANUARY BAPTISMS

English Baptism Class: Thursday, January 8 @ 5 pm
 English Baptisms: Saturday, January 10 @ 10 am
 Spanish Baptism Class: Thursday, January 15 @ 5 pm
 Spanish Baptisms: Saturday, January 24 @ 10 am

Clase de bautismo en inglés: jueves 8 de enero a las 5 pm
 Bautizos en inglés: sábado 10 de enero a las 10:00 am
 Clase de bautismo en español: jueves 15 de enero a las 5 pm
 Bautizos en español: sábado 24 de enero a las 10:00 am

Paper work must be completed & sponsors have met with Father before the baptism class. No exceptions.



ST. HELEN YOUTH GROUP ANNUAL SUPER BOWL TELEVISION RAFFLE

St. Helen Youth Group are selling tickets for a 65" television to be raffled off on February 1 just in time for Super Bowl Sunday on February 8. The raffle will be drawn after the 9:00 am mass. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Members of the youth group will be in the foyer of the church after the masses selling tickets or you can buy your tickets at the parish office. Monies raised from the raffle will be used for travel expenses to the Steubenville Conference this coming summer.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR YOUTH GROUP



Engaged Encounter Weekends 2026:

Will be announced as soon as they are available.

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The 2026 Calendars are available in the office. If you did not get one last week come by the office and get yours. One calendar per household please.

Los calendarios de 2026 están disponibles en la oficina. Si no recibió uno la semana pasada, pase por la oficina y recoja el suyo. Se requiere un calendario por hogar, por favor.



The parish office will be closed for Christmas Break from December 22-25. It will reopen on Monday, December 29 at 8:00 am. It will also be closed on Thursday, January 1 and reopen on January 5 at 8:00 am. In case of emergency, you may reach Emma at 575-760-6811.

La oficina parroquial permanecerá cerrada por las fiestas navideñas del 22 al 25 de diciembre. Re-abrirá el lunes 29 de diciembre a las 8:00 a. m. También estará cerrada el jueves 1 de enero y re-abrirá el 5 de enero a las 8:00 a. m. En caso de emergencia, puede comunicarse con Emma al 575-760-6811.



Christmas Masses

December 24, Christmas Eve

6:00 pm in English 9:00 pm in Spanish

December 26, Christmas Day

9:00 am in English 12:00 pm in Spanish

Misas de Navidad

24 de diciembre, Nochebuena

6:00 pm en inglés 9:00 pm en español

26 de diciembre, Día de Navidad

9:00 am en inglés 12:00 pm en español



Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

December 31, 2025 New Year's Eve

6:00 pm in English

January 1, 2026, New Year's Day

9:00 am in English 12:00 pm in Spanish

Solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios (Día de precepto)

31 de diciembre de 2025, Nochevieja

6:00 pm en inglés

1 de enero de 2026, Año Nuevo

9:00 am en inglés 12:00 pm en español

POSADAS.

Bilingual Posadas will begin on December 17, 2025. They will begin with adoration 5:00 pm; mass at 6:00 pm in the church. Posadas will follow at the parish hall following mass. If you wish to host a night, please call the office and sign up. We hope to fill the slots up before we start.

Las Posadas bilingües comenzarán el 17 de diciembre de 2025. Iniciarán con la adoración a las 5:00 p. m., seguida de la misa a las 6:00 p. m. en la iglesia. Posteriormente, se celebrarán las Posadas en el salón parroquial. Si desea ser anfitrión de una noche, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial e inscríbese. Esperamos completar los cupos antes de comenzar.

December 17—Catholic Daughters

December 18—Filapino Community

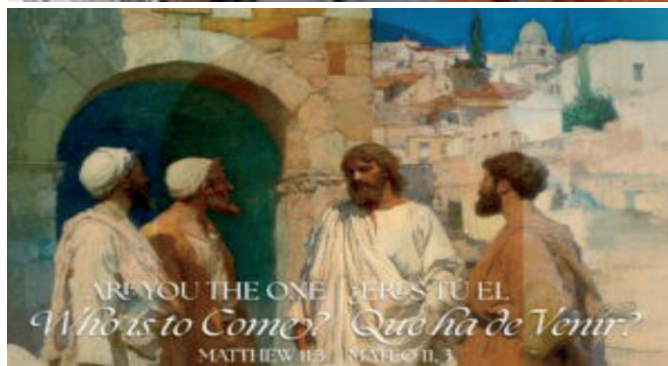
December 19—The Villanueva Families

December 20—St. Helen Youth Group

December 21—Sisneros Family

December 22—Open

December 23—Deacon Paul & Lucia Benoit



Third Sunday of Advent The Prophet's Profit

If you read the books of the prophets in the Old Testament, you might notice that they were not very popular. Most were killed or exiled because they challenged people (especially the rulers of the people) to follow the commands of God. John the Baptist (who could be called the last Old Testament prophet and the first prophet of the New Testament) suffered the same way. So what kept the prophets going?

First of all, the prophets had faith in God. They believed that God spoke through them, they believed that God's people must obey his commandments faithfully and love the Lord above all things. They had faith that God would protect them and support them, and that God would always keep His promises.

Second, they had patience. They kept going when people rejected their preaching. They patiently waited for God to keep those promises, sometimes for the rest of their lives. Some prophets had to be patient with their own weaknesses or their failure to change the behavior of the people of Israel.

The third gift of the prophets was hope: That by keeping God's commands, God's people would be renewed, along with all of creation. Our first reading is an example of such hope, with its descriptions of deserts becoming gardens and the sick and disabled being healed and strengthened.

So what do we learn from those prophets? First, we need to keep our faith in God strong. If you go to church once a week, the bare minimum, it would be like exercising only once a week and thinking that will keep you in shape. Prayer, for our spiritual health, is an exercise just as important as aerobics for physical health.

Second, we need patience and not just with our kids. We need to be patient with ourselves and with God. Some people stop going to church because they don't see any spiritual growth in themselves. So be patient; don't expect to become a saint right away. Sometimes even saints could not see their own spiritual growth.

Finally, the gift of hope helps us be patient because we trust that God will keep his promises and give us whatever we need. The reading from Isaiah gives us hope that God will open our eyes of faith, clear our ears to hear His word, (Is 35:5) and "meet him with joy and gladness" (Is 35:10).

Tom Schmidt

Tercer Domingo de Adviento La ganancia de un profeta

Si lees los libros de los profetas del Antiguo Testamento, notarás que no fueron muy populares. La mayoría fueron asesinados o exiliados porque desafiaron a la gente (especialmente a los gobernantes) a seguir los mandatos de Dios. Juan el Bautista (quien podría considerarse el último profeta del Antiguo Testamento y el primero del Nuevo Testamento) sufrió de la misma forma. Entonces, ¿qué impulsó a los profetas a seguir adelante?

En primer lugar, los profetas tenían fe en Dios. Creían que Dios hablaba a través de ellos, creían que el pueblo de Dios debía obedecer sus mandamientos fielmente y amar al Señor sobre todas las cosas. Tenían fe en que Dios los protegería y apoyaría, y que Dios siempre cumpliría sus promesas.

En segundo lugar, tuvieron paciencia. Perseveraron cuando la gente rechazó su predicación. Esperaron pacientemente a que Dios cumpliera esas promesas, a veces por el resto de sus vidas. Algunos profetas tuvieron que ser pacientes con sus propias debilidades o con su incapacidad para cambiar el comportamiento del pueblo de Israel.

El tercer don de los profetas fue la esperanza: que al cumplir los mandamientos de Dios, su pueblo se renovaría, junto con toda la creación. La primera lectura es un ejemplo de esa esperanza, con sus descripciones de desiertos convertidos en jardines y de enfermos y discapacitados sanados y fortalecidos.

Entonces, ¿qué aprendemos de estos profetas? Primero, tenemos que mantener firme nuestra fe en Dios. Si vas a la iglesia una vez a la semana, lo mínimo requerido, sería como hacer ejercicio solo una vez a la semana y pensar que eso te mantendrá en buena forma. La oración, para nuestra salud espiritual, es un ejercicio tan importante como los aeróbicos para la salud física.

Segundo, necesitamos paciencia, y no solo con nuestros hijos. Tenemos que ser pacientes con nosotros mismos y con Dios. Algunas personas dejan de ir a la iglesia porque no ven ningún crecimiento espiritual en sí mismas. Así que sé paciente; no esperes convertirte en un santo de inmediato. A veces, incluso los santos no pudieron ver su propio crecimiento espiritual.

Finalmente, el don de la esperanza nos ayuda a ser pacientes porque confiamos en que Dios cumplirá sus promesas y nos dará todo lo necesario. La lectura de Isaías nos da la esperanza de que Dios abrirá nuestros ojos de fe, limpiará nuestros oídos para escuchar su palabra (Is 35,5) y nos recibirá con gozo y dicha (Is 35,10).

Tom Schmidt

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Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Meetings held 1st Thurs of the month starting at 6:00pm
Thomas More Center
Court St. Helen of the Cross #2435
Scholarships Available

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