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jalston520@gmail.com
Arlenealston26@gmail.com
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985-969-3328

This space available.
Contact St. Helena Catholic Church
985-748-9057


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• FOR MEMBERSHIP INFO
225-324-5784


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21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • AUGUST 23, 2026

“...you are Peter,
and upon this rock I
will build My church,
and the gates of the
netherworld shall not
prevail against it.
I will give you the keys
to the kingdom of
heaven.
Whatever you bind on
earth shall be bound in
heaven;
and whatever you loose
on earth shall be loosed
in heaven.”
Matthew 16:13-20





The Church Bulletin
Serving the communities of St. Helena Catholic Church,
Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church and St. Dominic Catholic Church

The Office is located at 122 South 1st Street Amite, LA 70422
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 3:00pm, Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm

• STAFF •
Pastor, Rev. Reuben Dykes
Parochial Vicar, Rev. Emilio Gomez
Deacon, Eddie Renz Jr.
Retired Deacon, Nat Garofalo
Retired Deacon, Stephen Ourso
Office Administrator, Laura Faust
Administrative Assistant, Shana Bender
Reception, Susan Higgins
MD Sacramental Coordinator, Joyce Paille
SHCC Sacramental Coordinator, Trudy Currier
DRE, Brogan Webb
Assistant DRE/Youth, Brooke Danna
Music Director MD, Tony Anzalone
Music Director SHCC, Danny Keen
Music Director Spanish, Francisco Picado
Music Director Spanish, Jessling Picado
Music Director Spanish, Casimiro Villa

• PHONE •
Office 985-748-9057, 985-878-
Mater Dolorosa School 985-878-4295

• MASS SCHEDULE •
Mater Dolorosa
Wednesday - Friday 8:00am
Monday, Tuesday No Mass
Saturday Vigil 4:00pm
Sunday 11:00am
1st Saturday Mass 8:00am
St. Dominic
Tuesday 6:00pm
Sunday 8:15am
St. Helena
Monday, Wednesday - Friday 7:30am
Tuesday No Mass
Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 9:00am
Sunday Spanish 12:30pm
First Saturday Mass 9:00am in Spanish

• CONFSSION SCHEDULE •
Mater Dolorosa
Wednesday- Friday 7:00-7:45am
1st Saturday 7:00-7:45am
Saturday 3:00-3:45pm
St. Dominic
Tuesday 5:00-5:45pm
Sunday 7:00-7:45am
St. Helena
Monday, Wednesday - Friday 7:00am
Wednesday 5:00pm
Saturday 3:00-3:45pm
Sunday 8:00-8:45am

• FOLLOW US ON •
SOCIAL MEDIA
sainthelenacatholicchurch
materdolorosacatholicparish
Website https://sth-mdc.org

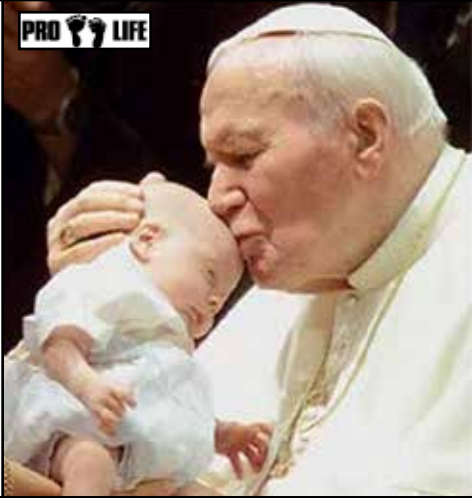
Welcome To Our Growing Parish Communities!

St. Helena (SHCC) Mass Intentions	Mater Dolorosa (MD) St. Dominic (SD) Mass Intentions
Monday, August 24, 2026 7:30am +John Vaccaro Wednesday, August 26, 2026 7:30am +Nolan & +Rosemary Graham Thursday, August 27, 2026 7:30am +Kimberly Johnson Erickson Friday, August 28, 2026 7:30am +Anna Lucia Saturday, August 29, 2026 4:00pm +Father Mark Beard, +Harold & Flo Beard, +Father Howard Adkins, +Thomas Hymel, +Myrtis Hymel, +Edith Cutrer, +Joan Scarle, +Dr. Derris Ray, +Dwayne Ardeneaux, +Savina & +Steve Campo, +Louis Blanchard, +Charles Currier, +John Campo Sr., +Thomas Bellavia, +Joe & +Sandra Schlumbrecht, +Hank Schumacher, +Betty Pousson, +Russell & +Dot Thompson, +Russell Thompson Jr., +Dominick Cuti, +Clark Colgan, +John & +Rose Pitkethly, +David Paul Delaune, +Michael Henry, +Bill Higgins, Conversion of Sinners, Nancy Barman, Armand & Janis Riendeau, Lindsey Booty Sunday, August 30, 2026 9:00am +Father Mark Beard, +Harold & Flo Beard, +Father Howard Adkins, +Ashlee Travis, +Harrell Griffin, +Charles Currier, +Louis Blanchard, +John Campo Sr., +Joan Scarle, +Savina Campo, +Dwayne Ardeneaux, +Jacob Gifford, +Tommy Bellavia, +Gayle Currier, +Alice Perez, +Hank Schumacher, +Bart Breaux, +Paul Kluka, +Clay Reagan, +David Paul Delaune, +Michael Henry, +Bill Higgins, +Souls In Purgatory, Julian Bourg Sunday, August 30, 2026 12:30pm The People of the Parish	Tuesday, August 25, 2026 SD 6:00pm +Hank Schumacher Wednesday, August 26, 2026 MD 8:00am +Vincent Calcagno Sr. Thursday, August 27, 2026 MD 8:00am +Carmella Barbier Friday, August 28, 2026 MD 8:00am + Joe & Frances Patanella Saturday, August 29, 2026 MD 4:00pm Tommy Sharp, +Jason Baglio, +Vincent Calcagno, Sr., +Chris Paille, +Anthony Laciura, +Brandon Duncan, +Dale Brouillette, +Loretta Genco, Brenda Rand, Mary Gary, In thanksgiving to St. Anthony, +Sal Perise, +Angietta Keen Sunday, August 30, 2026 SD 8:15am Morgan Shockley, Sandy Husser, Jennifer Brown, +Bob Drude, +Beth Boudreaux, +Gilbert Boudreaux, Sr., +Cherish Phipps Sunday, August 30, 2026 MD 11:00am The People of the Parish
Please remember to pray for all the sick who could not worship today because of illness, especially  Mitchell Warren, Rayford Conerly, Suzanne Bridgewater, Henry McCabe, Imelda & Kenneth Travis, Josephine Capdeboscq, Hurless Clouatre, Tracy Brumfield, John Brumfield, Susan Brumfield, Chris Burden, Susan Reid, Matt Smith, Rickey Robertson, Madonna Liuzza, Lance Joiner, Owen Clotiaux, Danny Vicknair, Granger Family, George Ann Smith, Virginia Guzzardo, Margie Lacaro, Gail Keller, Lindsey Booty, Eric Tarver, Kenneth Hill, Connor Corkern, Frances Currier, Jay Ardillo, Brian Rueb, Karen Schumacher, Mac Perkins Sr., Angela Perkins, Pat Bender, Brenda Perret, Kurt Mashon, Cathy Phillips, Charlotte Gill, Pam Elder, Juliette Luper, Erma Clark, John Pritchett, Ramona Kaul, Juanita Dugar, Catherine Calamari, Doris Wright, George Van Zandt, Linda Ronquillo	Heavenly Father, creator of mankind, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask You to bless all members of our Armed Forces. Please be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.  George Van Zandt, Larry Toups, Peter Vangiel, James Hoover, Dennis Toups, William Graham, Vince Owen, Brandon Thompson, Jerry Dyer, Jamie Cutrer, Eric Russell, James Sylvester, Mark Prine, Nic Edwards, Jake Cristina, Scott Swilley, Angie Swilley, Chris Brunet, Jacob Rankin, James Michael Dupuis, Daniel Mays, Jim Bravis Redmond Jr., Daniel Santora, Jerry Simmons, Wesley Corkern, Lucas Edward Thigpen, John Accord, Maxwell Conger, Kyle Joseph Rosalies, Jordon Quinn, Adrian Gonzalez Moreno, Sgt. Matthew Vallot, Lt. Molly Fekete, Wesley Corkern, Jacob Frazier, Braeden Hallmark, Andrew Zaffuto, Blake Blades, Aivah Noble, Jared Guidry, Dillon Guidry, Jonah Brumfield, Joshua Aikman, Braxton Greenlee AUGUST 23, 2026 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME "You have the words of eternal life." Could God be calling you to be a vessel of his eternal love and wisdom that guides and inspires others? Follow Him into a life of service to others as a priest or religious brother or sister. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225-336-8778 or via email: ablount@diobr.org Cover Image: Pope John Paul II holds the host during Mass in the Lateran Basilica, June 19, 2003. (OSV News photo/Max Rossi, Reuters)

FOCUS ON FASTING

AUGUST INTENTIONS

- For all teachers, children and lay ministers participating in PSR, that they will be willing, open, and obedient to Gods Divine Will and find His treasures that He offers.
- We Ask for Gods Wisdom in our lives and seek a deeper understanding of what He desires to show us.
- For all Seminarians, Deacons, and Priest as they seek the fullness of their vocation in serving Christs Church.
- For the hastening of the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- For the Grace of the New Pentecost to be poured out upon our parish communities.



ENCOUNTER

THE PRESENCE OF JESUS



3rd Thursday of each month

Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church

5:30pm-7:00pm

Join us: August 20th, September 17th, October 15th, November 19th, December 17th

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Meetings held every 2nd Monday of the Month.

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Two Hearts
Women's Prayer Breakfast
All women are invited to come together for Breakfast, Fellowship & Prayer
Saturday, October 3, 2026 • 9am-12pm • KC Hall, Independence, LA
Guest Speaker: Jennifer Prather
Limited seating available. Please make reservations before September 26th.
Please call or text Carol at 985-320-0051 or email to womensprayerbreakfast24@gmail.com
Please call if cancelling your reservations.



Scan to register today!
Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2027
June 2 - 11, 2027
Father Reuben will be leading parishioners of St Helena, Mater Dolorosa, and St Dominic on our 2027 Pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Dubrovnik.
Pricing is Land Only. Flight booked individually closer to travel time. Non-refundable \$500 per person deposit due at registration.
Questions? Email Sandy Barnes at sandy.barnese3dtravelcompany.com


www.206tours.com/trreuben
Password: Francis206

MARIAN SERVANTS of the VISITATION

A HOLY HOUR
Before the Blessed Sacrament

Monday, August 31, 2026 • 6:30pm-7:30pm
St. Joseph's Daily Chapel, Ponchatoula, LA

"Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded," declares the Lord. "They will return from the land of the enemy."
Jeremiah 31:16 NIV

Baptism Seminars
If you are in need of a Baptism Seminar, please call the Church Office to register.

The Seminar dates are:
Sunday, August 23, 2026 - after 9am Mass at St. Helena
Monday, August 24, 2026 - 6:00pm at Mater Dolorosa
Tuesday, August 25, 2026 - 5:00pm at St. Helena

Ministries

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETINGS AT ST. HELENA
Every Monday in classroom 203 at 5pm. We are open to all who wish to live their faith by loving and serving their neighbor.

BIBLE STUDY AT ST. HELENA
In classroom 101 after 7:30am Mass. All are welcome to attend the Bible Study.

MATER DOLOROSA ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS
Will be held on the second Thursday of the month at 5:30pm at Mater Dolorosa Church.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETINGS

- Amite Knights of Columbus #10911 meets the first Tuesday of the month in classroom 101. Rosary 6pm, meeting 6:30pm.
- Independence Knights of Columbus #5627 meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6pm in the KC Hall.
- Visit our Facebook page at [Knights of Columbus St. Helena Council No 10911](#)

ST. HELENA CDA MEETINGS
Have you thought about becoming a Catholic Daughter? Please join us at 5:30pm in classroom 101 every second Monday.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Mater Dolorosa Collections	8/16/2026	\$ 8,185.25
Poor Relief		\$ 391.00
Feast of the Assumption		\$ 643.00
<i>The second collection at MD NEXT weekend (8/30) is for Poor Relief.</i>		
St. Helena Collections	8/16/2026	\$ 6,320.00
Poor Relief		\$ 2,566.00
<i>The second collection at SHCC NEXT weekend (8/30) is for Poor Relief.</i>		



TRUE DISCIPLE GIFT SHOP
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TRUE DISCIPLE GIFT SHOP
RED CLEARANCE SALE
Immaculate Heart
Hearts of Mary

In honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

We are having a
RED CLEARANCE SALE
thru the end of August on select items!

This Week's Readings

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026
Revelation 21:9b-14; Psalm 145; John 1:45-51
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17; Psalm 96; Matthew 23:23-26
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18; Psalm 128; Matthew 23:27-32
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Psalm 145; Matthew 24:42-51
FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026
1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Psalm 33; Matthew 25:1-13
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026
1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Psalm 33; Mark 6:17-29
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026
Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27



Serving the communities of

ST. HELENA CATHOLIC CHURCH
MATER DOLOROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office is located at: 122 South 1st Street, Amite, LA 70422 • 985-748-9057

August 22, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In recent months, the Diocesan Building Committee has given considerable attention to security and preparedness with regard to the different institutions in the Diocese. They've encouraged each parish and school to evaluate potential vulnerabilities. This isn't because of any known threat but simply from a desire to be prepared to respond well in the event of any number of situations.

In light of this, our parishes have developed the Core Safety & Security Committee aimed at elevating our overall situation awareness, readiness, and response capabilities during Masses, school, and parish events. We will be focusing on four key areas:

- Physical Security:** Assessing and enhancing physical security across each church campus and the school.
- Safety:** To maintain watchful and attentive care during all liturgical gatherings.
- Medical Response:** Prepare a plan to respond to health emergencies or medical events.
- Natural & Man-Made Disasters:** Establish protocols for severe weather or other general emergencies.

To support this initiative, we are forming three subcommittees, one for each church: Mater Dolorosa, St. Helena, and St. Dominic. Their task will be to prepare plans addressing these four key areas, tailored to each individual church.

We are reaching out to you-our parishioners-to help build these committees. If you have any skills or experience in these areas (medical, law enforcement, safety, first responders, emergency management), or you believe your experience or interests could contribute to this ministry, please prayerfully consider serving. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church if you are interested in being a member of this subcommittee. If you have any questions, you can contact one of the following core committee members:

Jerry Burg 504-810-9171

Emily Chauvin 504-628-6387

Wesley Danna 985-687-8207

Shonda Franicevic 504-599-5826

Ron Orsi 985-974-6495

Cary Radford 504-905-5913

Harold Schulmbrecht 504-453-2694

Dominique Truxillo 985-269-3756

Entrusting you all to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,



Fr. Reuben

HOLY FACE DEVOTION AT ST. HELENA Monday, August 24 th • 6:00pm	FIRST SATURDAY MASS SEPTEMBER 5, 2026 Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church in Independence 7am Confession • 8am Mass St. Helena Catholic Church in Amite 8am Confession • 8:30am Rosary • 9am Spanish Mass
PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY BY ST. GERTRUDE <i>Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.</i>	

Ministers Schedule for August 29-30, 2026					
St. Helena					
MASS	DEACON	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	SACRISTANS
8/29 4:00pm		D. Murphy, M. Gray	R. Mitchell, J. Williams, A. Stevens, T. Durnin	P. Macaluso, L. Warner	M. Potts
8/30 9:00am		K. Kellem, E. Gauf	S. Ware, S. Thompson, R. Currier, S. Oliver	B. Webb, N. Dees, O. Spitale, E. Brouillette	T. Currier
Mater Dolorosa • St. Dominic					
MASS	DEACON	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	SACRISTANS
8/29 4:00pm	Dcn. Eddie	S. Dickson		V. Greenfield, G. Finch	
8/30 8:15am	Dcn. Eddie	L. Reed	D. Reed, J. Morel	E. & M. Barnes, L. Danna	
8/30 11:00am	Dcn. Eddie	E. Mendez	J. & Ja Costa	J. Messina, Faust, G. Dufrene, Thiel	



Jesus the Way; Jesus the Truth; Jesus the Life...

The Ways of the Lord

In Paul’s Letter to the Romans, we see how he is overwhelmed by the depth of God’s wisdom. Paul cries out, **“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!”** Paul then proceeds to speak about God’s ways that are more than we can fully understand.

St. John Chrysostom explains to us that Paul is giving us a sort of paradox. God is wise, yet His wisdom comes from no one outside Himself. God is the source of every good thing and is Himself indebted to no one for His own goodness. Chrysostom explains that God Himself is the **Fountain of all good things**. He is the spring that will never run dry.

So what is our takeaway?

Paul is further showing us the greatness of God, **the Great I AM**. He existed before all created things, and He freely created us out of love. When He created us, it was ex nihilo—from nothing. He didn’t make us out of spare parts or other things, but He simply willed us to exist through His infinite power.

Our God is greater than we can imagine or comprehend. Paul says His judgments are unsearchable. God’s plan for salvation is so great that we could never fully comprehend it. Yet He revealed Himself totally and finally in **His Son, Jesus Christ**. Thus, even though we can’t fully know His entire plan, God has revealed what we need to know and believe for salvation and to be with Him.

We see the beauty and the power of God; however, there is even more depth to God than we can fully comprehend.

Finally, as in all things, Paul finishes this exhortation with **praise to God**:

“To Him be all glory forever. Amen.”



EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

“THE CHURCH EXISTS TO EVANGELIZE.” POPE SAINT PAUL VI

•••••

YOUTH NIGHTS

JR. HIGH SCHOOL • GRADES 5th - 8th • 5pm-7pm
August 23rd Jr. High Night at St. Helena
September 6th Jr. High Night at St. Helena

HIGH SCHOOL • GRADES 8th - 12th • 5pm-7pm
September 13th High School Night at St. Helena
August 30th High School Night at St. Dominic

If you would like to join Remind, text 81010.
To provide a meal for the Youth, contact Brooke at 985-474-9281.

•••••

OCIA CLASSES HAVE BEGUN!

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
Classes began last week, but it’s not too late to join.
We meet after the 11am Mass at Independence KC Hall located across from Mater Dolorosa Church.

B	C	A	W	M	Z	D	C	E	A
O	W	R	L	A	G	I	G	G	N
T	C	K	F	R	H	O	L	Y	G
D	O	L	O	R	D	S	E	V	E
R	W	B	A	P	E	B	W	R	L
A	D	A	M	K	E	D	E	N	P
A	T	J	U	M	T	Z	N	I	Y
A	F	A	I	T	H	R	O	J	X
I	Q	W	W	S	P	V	A	R	E
F	M	L	G	O	D	W	H	Q	X



WORD LIST

ADAM	FAITH
ANGEL	GOD
ARK	HOLY
EDEN	LORD
EVE	NOAH

FALL PSR DATES

- August 16th 5-7pm
Dinner Provided By CDA
Classes will recieve safe enviornment training
Confirmation Parent meeting in the hall
Theme Color is Blue
- September 13th 5-7pm
Dinner Provided by Amite KC
8-10th grade Guest Speaker: Savanna Balado
Theme Color is Red
- October 11th 5-7pm
Dinner Provided by Independence KC
8-10th grade guest speaker: Allison Dreher
Theme color is Black
- November 15th 5-7pm
Dinner Provided by CDA
8-10th grade guest speaker: Trey Holmes
Theme Color is Brown/Orange
- December 13th 5-7pm
Dinner provided by St. Dominic Breakfast Club
8-10th grade guest speaker Kevin Mcall
Theme Color is red and green
- January 17th 5-7pm
Dinner Provided
8-10th grade guest teacher Brogan Webb
Theme color is Purple
- February 7th 5-7pm
Dinner provided
8-10th grade Lead by Brooke Danna
Theme Color is Green

SUNDAY NIGHTS

ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON ST. HELENA CAMPUS



YOUTH EVENTS COMING UP

If interested for your youth to go to any of these events, contact Brooke at brooke@materdolorosa.net or call the Office.

OCT 11

HOPE YOUTH FEST

Open to all 7th - 12th grade.

Located at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Center, Osyka, MS.

OCT 28

TRUNK R TREAT • 5pm-7pm

Open to everyone.

Located at St. Helena Catholic Church, Amite.

NOV 7

ANGOLA RETREAT

Open to all 7th - 12th grade.

Located at 17544 Tunica Trace, Angola, LA 70712.
\$65.00 per person will include: transportation, shirt, breakfast & lunch.

NOV 14

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Required for Confirmation students.

Located at St. Dominic Catholic Church, Husser, LA 70442.
9:00am - 8:00pm, Mass included, lunch and dinner provided.

APR 10

ABBEY YOUTH FEST 2027!

Open to all 8th grade and up.

Located at the St. Joseph Abbey, 75376 River Rd, Saint Benedict, LA 70457. Go to abbeyyouthfest.com for more info.