

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

ST. HELEN MODEL OF FAITH AND PATIENCE



"My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we are celebrating our patroness Saint Helen, the mother Emperor Constantine (285-337 AD). She was known for her great discovery of the Holy Wood of the Cross on which our savior was sacrificed. **Thanks to her we have the great feast called the Exaltation of Holy Cross.** We are celebrating her love for Christ. She could not let Christians of all ages forget this great ultimate sacrifice by becoming soft and flabby or complacent once persecution was over. St. Helen took upon herself with the help of Constantine an expedition to search for the lost cross of Jesus in Jerusalem. According to tradition, she was eventually successful. From this perspective, she was able to restore the cross, and built new churches in Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Helen's expedition was not an easy task; however, she was inspired and motivated about the value of the relic of the cross in the life of the Church and the Christians. **By looking at the One whom they have pierced, she found courage and strength to carry on her mission and deal with her own life implications. St. Helena of Constantinople is the Patron Saint of archeologists. She is also the Patron Saint of converts, difficult marriages, and divorced couples. St. Helena lived from approximately 248-329.**

As we are celebrating our Patroness, we can take to heart Jesus' warning to His apostles and the crowds to be patient in their waiting. Waiting for what? **To be empowered by the fire of love as He said in the chapter 3 of Luke's Gospel and in the Acts of the Apostles the fire will strengthen them to go out to the whole world to preach the good news of Jesus' Resurrection.** In the face of rejection, Helen's faith allowed her to endure everything. Jesus warned in last Sunday's Gospel commitment of faith requires us to change our attitude toward material possessions and to take even more seriously our moral responsibilities. Here He reminds the crowd that those who commit to Him will find it affects the way they relate to friends and family members. **St. Helen overcame fear and left her comfort zone to go and find the Tree of Life. She committed her life to Christ by bringing Him to others through the relic of the cross and her acts of charity.**

My brothers and sisters, St. Helen is our Patroness and **model of faith and patience**. Let us ask the Lord through St. Helen's intervention we too **can grow in faith and patience** so that we can live our lives as true and faithful Christians doing good works for the church by helping our brothers and sisters in need.

HAPPY ST. HELEN FEAST!

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – August 24, 2025
