Blessed Sacrament Parish
Weekly Email June 27, 2025

The truly remarkable Helen Keller was born on this day in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Several months before Helen's second birthday, a serious illness—possibly meningitis or scarlet fever—left her deaf and blind. She had no formal education until age seven, and since she could not speak, she developed a system for communicating with her family by feeling their facial expressions. Recognizing her daughter's intelligence, Keller's mother sought help from experts including inventor Alexander Graham Bell, who had become involved with deaf children. Ultimately, she was referred to Anne Sullivan, a graduate of the Perkins School for the Blind, who became Keller's lifelong teacher and mentor. Although Helen initially resisted her, Sullivan persevered. She used touch to teach Keller the alphabet and to make words by spelling them with her finger on Keller's palm.

Within a few weeks, Keller caught on. A year later, Sullivan brought Keller to the Perkins School in Boston, where she learned to read Braille and write with a specially made typewriter. Newspapers chronicled her progress. At fourteen, she went to New York for two years where she improved her speaking ability and then returned to Massachusetts to attend the Cambridge School for Young Ladies. With Sullivan's tutoring, Keller was admitted to Radcliffe College, graduating cum laude in 1904. Sullivan went with her, helping Keller with her studies.

Even before she graduated, Keller published two books, *The Story of My Life* (1902) and *Optimism* (1903), which launched her career as a writer and lecturer. She authored a dozen books and articles in major magazines, advocating for the prevention of blindness in children and for other causes. Undeterred by deafness and blindness, Helen Keller rose to become a major 20th century humanitarian, educator and writer. She advocated for the blind and for women's suffrage and co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union. A second film on her life won the Academy Award in 1955 — *The Miracle Worker*. Helen Keller is an outstanding model of resilience.

Give thanks to God for the gift of vision as well as those doctors and technicians who help us be able to see better. Pray for the blind as well those who are losing their ability to see. **SOURCE**: https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/helen-keller

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Faith in West Virginia https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/
This Sunday's Readings https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/062925-Mass.cfm

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Live, Local, and Late-breaking

Bishop Mark Brennan has authorized a **SPECIAL COLLECTION** to help victims of the recent devastating floods in Marion and Ohio counties. Be sure to make the checks out to Blessed Sacrament Parish and write "Floods" on the memo line. Place cash gifts inside an envelope marked "Floods."

Garden Committee Meeting

Please join us at **12:30pm on Sunday, June 29th** in the parish hall. We will share a proposal for our Mary garden, ask your thoughts about crops to grow in the fall/winter, and catch you up on progress with the rain garden.

Fr. Biju Devasya will make a **MISSIONARY APPEAL** on behalf of his diocese in India next weekend. A special collection will be taken. Please be sure to make the checks out to Blessed Sacrament Parish and write "Missionary" on the memo line. Place cash gifts inside an envelope marked "Missionary."

POEM

They took away what should have been my eyes,
(But I remembered Milton's Paradise).
They took away what should have been my ears,
(Beethoven came and wiped away my tears).
They took away what should have been my tongue,
(But I had talked with God when I was young).
He would not let them take away my soul —
Possessing that, I still possess the whole.
— Helen Keller (1880–1968)

MYSTIC MORSELS

- The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.
- What we have once enjoyed we can never lose.
  All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

- The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched— they must be felt with the heart.
- The struggle of life is one of our greatest blessings. It makes us patient, sensitive, and Godlike. It teaches us that although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.

- Four things to learn in life: To think clearly without hurry or confusion; To love everybody sincerely; To act in everything with the highest motives; To trust God unhesitatingly.

— Helen Keller (1880–1968)

Helen Keller's **PRAYER for PEACE**

In these days when war-drums sound throughout the world, let us pray that the God of Light and Harmony may open our eyes blinded by strife and open our ears to the song of peace on earth, good-will to men. O Lord in whose Countenance is the Morning of all things made new, shine upon us that we may illumine with peace the world-home Thou hast given us. Remove from us pride of might and arrogance of possession. Stretch our thoughts, O Divine Mind, that we may see the whole earth as our country and the inhabitants thereof as our neighbors. Fill our hearts with love that changeth discord to trust. Temper to our good the weariness and the broken hopes we cannot escape. Pour into us the strength of all valiant spirits.' Put into our hands constructive tasks of peace, let not our striving end with condemnation of folly and stupidity in high places. Quicken in us the will to resist the hysteria that those who take the sword raise to turn us aside from Thy Commandments. Give us power to the depth, breadth and height of our souls to prevent the destructions we have lived to weep. Out of the embers of fires that have scorched and blackened Thy kingdom on earth help us create a new order in which men will no more become savages through fear. Unite us millions strong against the darkness of hate, as unnumbered sunbeams streaming one way sweeten the sod unto green ecstasy and fruitfulness.

— Helen Keller New York City, Easter Sunday, April 5, 1936.

WIT, WHIMSY, & WHATEVER

- A preacher's little boy inquired, "Daddy, I notice every Sunday morning when you first come out to preach, you stand at the pulpit and bow your head. Why do you do that?" The father explained, "I'm asking the Lord to give me a good sermon." The little boy said, "Then why doesn't he?"

- "I hope you didn't take it personally, Father," an embarrassed woman said to her pastor after the Mass, "that my husband walked out during your homily."

  "I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher replied.

  "It's not a reflection on you, Father," she insisted.
  "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."