

2025 AUTUMN DAZE EXPRESS

Festival of Food, Fun, and Friendship for all ages

Autumn Daze, the great Twin Cities community party, kicks off at 5 PM on Friday, September 12

“Autumn Daze” Festival and Homecoming, the great Twin Cities community party, kicks off at 5:00 PM on Friday, September 12, 2025, at St. Helena Parish. With great food, live music, carnival rides, an auction, quilt and cash Bingo, a book sale, a parade, a car show, and a professional laser light show display, there’s something for everyone in the family to enjoy. Father Marcus Milless, pastor of St. Helena Church, and St. Helena parish members invite people from the broader community to attend. “We are so blessed to welcome all friends, families, and alumni from all over to help us celebrate this wonderful parish tradition,” Fr. Milless says. ““Autumn Daze” reminds us of the fullness of life we are called to experience as friends in the community through laughter, singing, delightful fright from the rides, the surprise of finding a treasure, and the taste of delicious food & drink.”

The festival takes place behind the church at 3204 E 43rd Street. Some events take place inside St.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALL THE FUN ON PAGE 12



“Festival de Otoño” - un festival de comida, diversión y amistad para todas las edades el 12, 13 y 14 de septiembre de 2025

El “Festival de Otoño” comienza a las 5:00 PM el viernes 12 de septiembre de 2025, en St Helena Parish. El Padre Marcus Milless, párroco de St Helena, y los miembros de St Helena invitan a la gente de la comunidad en general a asistir. “Tenemos la bendición de dar la bienvenida a amigos, familias y ex alumnos de todas partes para que nos ayuden a celebrar esta maravillosa tradición parroquial,”

dice el padre Milless.

El festival alberga todo un fin de semana de diversión familiar, que incluye una gran comida, atracciones de carnaval, una subasta, un bingo con colchas y efectivo, una venta de libros, un desfile, una exhibición de coches y una exhibición de espectáculo de luz láser. También habrá música en vivo, incluyendo varias bandas de jazz locales y grupo de

Mariach el domingo a las 12.

El festival tiene lugar detrás de la iglesia, en el 3204 E. 43rd St. Algunos eventos tienen lugar dentro de St Helena School. El festival está abierto de 5:00 a 10:00 PM el viernes, 12 de septiembre; 10:30 AM a 10:00 PM el sábado, 13 de septiembre; y 10:30 AM a 5:00 PM el domingo, 14 de septiembre. Esperamos verle allí.



Laser lights – a spectacular show at “Autumn Daze”

The first night of “Autumn Daze” 2025 will close with a blaze of light, thanks to a sensational laser light show display in the church parking lot. This performance starts promptly at 10:00 PM on Friday, September 12, in the church parking lot, lighting up the skies of Minneapolis with bright colors.

The 20-minute show is sure to dazzle both festival participants and the entire neighborhood. Don’t go home early on Friday night. Enjoy the fish fry, play a game of bingo, listen to some music, and be entertained with a magnificent, colorful laser light display!

SEPT. 12, 13 & 14 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELENA 3204 EAST 43RD STREET, MINNEAPOLIS MN

Autumn Daze

PARADE ROUTE



Grand Marshal: Tom McCarr

Line up at 9:30 AM Saturday,
September 13th along 36th Ave.
between 50th and 52nd Streets.
Parade begins at 10:00 AM

2025 “Autumn Daze” schedule

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12	
5:00 PM – 10:00 PM	....Fish Fry begins (Big Tent)
5:00 PM – 10:00 PM	....Limited Food Selections (Big Tent)
5:00 PM – 10:00 PM	....Beer booth open (Big Tent)
5:00 PM -- 7:00 PM	.... School Alumni Event (School offices)
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	.... Festival activities: Games, Silent Auction, booths, rides
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	... Attic Treasures (School Grounds)
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	.... Entertainment – Trailer Trash (Big Tent)
7:00 PM	..... \$500 Cover-All Bingo (School Gym)
8:00 PM	..... Quilt Bingo (School Gym)
9:00 PM	..... \$500 Cover-All Bingo (School Gym)
9:30 PM	..... \$500 Cover-All Bingo (School Gym)
10:00 PM	..... LASER LIGHT SHOW (Church Parking Lot)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13	
8:30 AM	..... Caramel Rolls and Coffee for sale (Big Tent)
10:00 AM	..... Parade (Streets of Minneapolis)
10:30 AM - 10:00 PM	...Carnival Rides (School Grounds)
10:30 AM - 10:00 PM	...Attic Treasures (School Grounds)
10:30 AM - 10:00 PM	...Food, Games, Silent Auction, booths, book sale, shops
11:00 AM - 10:00 PM	...Beer booth open (Big Tent)
11:15 AM	.....Parade Awards Ceremony (Big Tent Stage)
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	.. Entertainment – Stone Arch Jazz Band (Big Tent)
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	.....Entertainment – Lex-Ham Band (Big Tent)
1:00 PM	..... Quilt Bingo (School Gym)
1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30	...Tours of St. Helena Windows
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	..... Entertainment – Matt Yetter Solo Blues (Big Tent)
4:00 PM	..... Mass (St. Helena Church)
4:30 - 6:30 PM	..... Entertainment – Pete Sappanos Trio (Big Tent)
5:30 PM	.....Quilt Bingo (School Gym)
7:00 PM	.....\$500 Cover-All Bingo (School Gym)
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	....Entertainment – Pearl Brothers (Big Tent)
8:00 PM	.....Quilt Bingo (School Gym)
9:00 PM	.....\$500 Cover-All Bingo (School Gym)
9:30 PM	.....\$500 Cover-All Bingo (School Gym)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14	
8:30 AM	.....Mass (St. Helena Church)
9:00 AM	.....Caramel Rolls and Coffee for sale (Big Tent)
10:00 AM	.....Mass (St. Helena Church)
10:30 AM – 5:00 PM	....Carnival Rides, Games, Silent Auction, booths, food (Harvest Gifts - ½ off on Sunday)
10:30 AM – 5:00 PM	...Attic Treasures – ½ off on Sunday (School Grounds)
11:00 AM – 5:00 PM	....Beer booth open (Big Tent)
11:30 AM – 4:00 PM	....Car Show (32nd Ave.)
1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30	..Tours of St. Helena Windows
1:30 PM	.....Quilt Bingo (School Gym)
3:00 PM	.....Auction Bidding closes (online)
3:30 PM	.....\$500 Cover-All Bingo (School Gym)
4:00 PM	.....\$500 Cover-All Bingo (School Gym)
5:00 PM	.....Closing ceremony - Drawings for prizes, closing ceremony (Big Tent Stage)

“Autumn Daze” Grand Marshal: Tom McCarr

Meet Tom McCarr, a familiar face in the St. Helena community and Grand Marshal of the 2025 “Autumn Daze” Festival!

Tom is a lifelong parishioner and alumni of the school; his parents joined St Helena shortly after he was born when his family moved to South Minneapolis. After graduating from the University of St. Thomas and Mitchell Hamline Law School, he worked his entire 33-year career at PricewaterhouseCoopers in accounting and tax, retiring in July of 2024 as a tax partner.

Tom and his wife Sheila were married at St. Helena and have been married for 24 years. They live in St Paul and just became new empty-nesters as their son Tommy is a freshman in college at Miami of Ohio University. Their eldest daughter, Katherine, just graduated from Marquette University and their middle daughter, Elizabeth, is a senior at Boston College. Both daughters are following their father’s footsteps in accounting.

For over 15 years, Tom has served as one of the trustees of the parish. “As a trustee, you appreciate how much work goes into running a parish and school, and it’s rewarding to be able to provide ideas that hopefully are making a difference in helping to run the church and school better.” he says. “I’m super excited about the future of St. Helena under the leadership of Fr. Milless and Karla Gergen. They’ve been a huge positive influence on the St. Helena community!”

Tom’s favorite part of Autumn Daze is the energy and excitement on Friday night. He loves seeing and connecting with parishioners, school families and old friends. He’s especially looking forward to this year’s alumni event on Friday night at the school to kick off the school’s 100th anniversary.

Congratulations, Tom, and thank you for all you do for St. Helena!

Autumn Daze parade to march down the streets of Mpls!

The “Autumn Daze” Parade on Saturday, September 13, at 10:00 AM, will warm the hearts of those in South Minneapolis. It has all the charm and character of a small town parade, with bands, floats, costumes, candy, decorated vehicles and bikes, and antique and collector cars.

There’s plenty of room for visitors and friends from outside the neighborhood to line the streets leading up to the church, where the parade reaches its final destination. (See the map of the parade route on this page.)

The Autumn Daze parade this year features five award-winning musical groups from the Twin Cities. The Simley High School Marching Band is a Minnesota State Fair award winner from 2016 and district champions from 2019. Their band puts on quite a show in our parade every year, and we are thrilled to have them back!

We’ll also have fantastic drum action from Kracker Jack Drumline. They’ve played in events including Chicago’s Fourth of July parade and New Orleans’ Mardi Gras parade.

We also have the classy Minnesots Pipes and Drums plus the sweet sounds of the Stone Arch Jazz Band.

Don’t forget, there’s also St. Helena’s own prized band. That’s right. St. Helena has its own band made up of children and adults, amateurs and professionals, who get together annually to rehearse the only two songs they know: “When the Saints Go Marching In” and “You’re a Grand Old Flag.”

Of course, this year’s parade will again have the participation of veterans being honored for their dedication to our country. Spectators will also find magnificent classic cars and vintage autos revving up their engines. Some of these vehicles will be on display on Sunday at the Car Show so you can take a closer look at the craftsmanship.

Immediately following the parade, prizes will be awarded for Best in Show, Best Vehicle, and Best Theme. The awards ceremony will take place on the stage under the Big Tent.

Anyone who wants to dress up in costumes, decorate a vehicle or bicycle, organize a group, or dress up a dog (or any other pet) can join the parade. We are also continuously on the lookout for classic cars, marching troops, and floats. To join the parade, or for more information, please call Anthony at (218) 349-8458 or John Sondag at 612-275-0431.

A “Salute to Veterans” in the 2025 “Autumn Daze” parade

St. Helena parish proudly invites individual veterans and veteran units of the United States military to participate in the 2025 “Autumn Daze” Parade by marching or by riding in parade vehicles. They are welcome to wear old uniforms, if they would like, or they can bring flags to wave.

Veterans who would like to participate should call Anthony at (218) 349-8458 to sign up and receive their position in the parade lineup. The parade route is a little more than a mile, so if veterans find it difficult to march the route, they can ride in a designated vehicle. We thank you for your service to our country!

2025

AUTUMN DAZE

EXPRESS

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Delicious Food Offerings at the 2025 “Autumn Daze” Festival!



Friday Night Fish Fry: An Annual “Autumn Daze” Highlight

The Friday Night Fish Fry for “Autumn Daze” is on! This popular South Minneapolis tradition starts at 5:00 PM on September 12. Our fresh, piping-hot dinner of white fish will be served until the laser light show begins at 10:00. The lines will be long, so come early! The meal also includes seasoned French fries and coleslaw. What could be better than crispy “fish and chips” with country music in the background under the Big Tent?

There will be limited food selections available on Friday, with the full menu available on Saturday and Sunday.

What’s a festival without food? Here at “Autumn Daze,” we can satisfy any craving you have with our “scrumptious,” “delicious,” “lip-smacking” menu. The food here is just so incredibly good. You could probably eat every meal during the festival without repeating a single item. The only exception might be breakfast, but who would say “no” to rich, gooey caramel rolls two mornings in a row?

The popular St. Helena Fish Fry will be held on Friday evening. We will also serve a limited selection of other dinner options under the Big Tent.

We’ve got you covered for the rest of the weekend too, with a full menu of everything from Asian cuisine to the classic hot dog. On the sweet side, malts, mini donuts, and cotton candy are among the favorites.

Bingo Concessions will provide all your snacking needs with popcorn, candy, drinks, and more.

Just take a look at the menu:

- Fish fry platter (Friday night only)
- Sloppy Joes
- Hot dogs
- Pizza
- Brats
- Pork chops on a stick (Saturday and Sunday)
- Asian cuisine (Saturday and Sunday)
- French fries
- Roasted corn on the cob
- Candy bars
- Popcorn
- Pies
- Cookies and bars
- Caramel rolls (Saturday and Sunday mornings)
- Gourmet desserts
- Ice cream truck and malted milk truck
- Pop, beer, coffee, and bottled water
- Roast beef and roast pork sandwiches

Fun for the Little Ones: Carnival rides and 9 games especially for young children

“Autumn Daze” has plenty to do for the energetic kids in your life. We will have 9 children’s games located under the Big Tent. You win a prize every single time you play, which makes them perfect for young children. Game tickets can be purchased underneath the Big Tent, across from the food.

Try them all:

- Clown Face
- Lollipop Wheel
- Plinko
- Trick or Treat
- Chocolate Tree
- Fish Pond
- Duck Pond
- Leap Frog
- Baseball Cards / Lego Booth (tickets will “purchase” you a bag of cards or legos)

In addition, Autumn Daze will have a Cake Walk inside the school (and everyone of all ages loves a good cake walk). There will also be carnival rides outside in the school parking lot. Several of the rides are specifically geared toward the younger set, including a carousel and giant slides. All rides are open throughout the weekend.

Discounted Ride Tickets

During the festival, ride tickets are available at the special outdoor ticket booth. Please note that the ride tickets and the game tickets are different and that they are purchased at separate places. Special discounted tickets for rides are available in the Parish Office if purchased before the festival – until noon on Friday, September 12. These pre-sale ride tickets are worth 1 ride per ticket. Parish Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.



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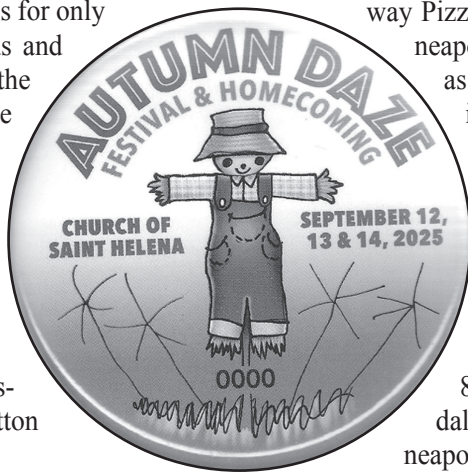
Neighbors helping Neighbors

For only \$1, you can still buy an "Autumn Daze" Button and reap all the many benefits!

As you're walking around the festival, you may notice people wearing large metal buttons with a fun scarecrow design. These 2025 "Autumn Daze" buttons were designed by Eleanor Bramante who won our design competition and beat out dozens of entries.

You can purchase one of these buttons for only \$1, earning you several free rewards and discounts leading up to and during the Festival. For starters, if you wear the button during the Festival you can get a bottle of water or can of pop for free (worth at least \$2.00). The button also acts as a coupon at several local businesses and automatically enters you in a drawing to win some money--not to mention you can wear the button and publicize the festival. Here's everything festival button can get you:

- 1 Free can of pop or bottle of water at the 2025 "Autumn Daze" Festival at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 East 43rd Street, Minneapolis, from Friday night, September 12, through Sunday afternoon, September 14, 2025. One can of pop or bottle of water (under the big tent) per button.
- Each button also entitles you to seven chances at win-



ning \$10 (once) by bringing the button to the Information Booth during the 2025 St. Helena "Autumn Daze" Festival to check if the button has a winning number. (For these \$10 prizes, buttons must be purchased before the festival begins.)

- 5% Off the price of pizza. Bring your button into Parkway Pizza at 4359 Minnehaha Ave. South, Minneapolis, and you will receive a 5% discount as you pick up your pizza. Expiration date is Sunday, September 14, 2025.
- 1 Free Pocket Prayerbook Bring your button to The Leaflet Missal Company, 976 West Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, and you will receive one free pocket prayerbook. Expiration date is Saturday, September 20, 2025.
- 5% Off purchases from September 8-13, 2025 Bring your button to Oxendale's Market, 5025 South 34 Ave., Minneapolis, from September 8 to 13, and receive a 5% discount. Not valid with other coupon offers or discounts.
- 1 Free Brewed Root Beer with any purchase of \$5 or more. Bring your button to Town Hall Lanes, 5019 South 34 Ave., Minneapolis, and receive a Brewed Root Beer (value \$4). Not valid with other coupon offers or discounts. Expiration is Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025.



A Cruise through Automobile History - Sunday, September 14

Are you the proud owner of an antique, vintage, or collector vehicle? If so, the St. Helena "Autumn Daze" Car Show gives you the perfect opportunity to show off your car, truck, or motorcycle, held on Sunday, September 14, from 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM on 32nd Avenue between 43rd and 44th Streets. Festival-goers will have the opportunity to view and inspect the workmanship and engineering skills of the owners and admire their vehicles. Trophies will be awarded to the top three entries at the Festival's closing ceremony at 5:00 PM.

To enter this event, you must submit a registration form by September 4 along with a \$10 fee. Forms may be found on our "Autumn Daze" website, www.autumndaze.org, or at the Parish Office. Send completed registration form and fee to St. Helena Car Show, 3204 East 43rd St, Minneapolis MN, 55406. For questions, call Jeff at 612-868-8300.

Vintage cars are also welcome to participate in the Festival parade on Saturday morning. For more details, see the parade article or contact Anthony at 218-349-8458.

"Autumn Daze" T-Shirts for Your Fall Clothing Needs

Show off your loyalty to our school and parish while preparing for the fall weather ahead with "Autumn Daze" T-shirts. Buy them soon--we sell out every year!

Our annual Festival T-shirts feature a fun "Autumn Daze" scarecrow design by Eleanor Bramante. Eleanor won this year's logo design competition, and her design is also shown on our buttons.

The T-shirts cost \$15 each. A limited number of sizes and shirts are available in both kid and adult sizes. T-shirts can be purchased under the Big Tent during the festival or at the Parish Office before the festival.

The Great 2025 "Autumn Daze" Book Sale - Donate your used books now and buy many favorites during the festival!

Make some room on your bookshelves by donating good, used books to the St. Helena "Autumn Daze" Festival. Then you will have plenty of space on those shelves for the rare finds and hidden treasures you'll find this year.

We will have thousands of books to choose from, with categories including cookbooks, children's books, fiction, and religious literature. Most hardcover books are \$2 while most paperback books are \$1. On Sunday, we have bundled pricing for a whole grocery bag of books--but the books you want might not last that long, so make sure to come Friday and Saturday as well!

To donate your old books (fiction or nonfiction), bring them to the Parish Office at 3204 East 43rd St, Minneapolis, or call 612-729-7321 if you need them picked up. Please do not donate romance novels.

Win Some Wine at Autumn Daze! Wine Walk, Baskets Auction, and the Ring Toss for Wine

If you are looking for new bottles of wine for the holiday season or for your own enjoyment, you're in luck: festival-goers will have at least three opportunities to win wine at "Autumn Daze."

The first place is the Wine Walk. The Wine Walk is played exactly the same way as the Cake Walk and held in the same place (school hallway by the basket auction room). The Wine Walk is scheduled from 6:00 to 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, and it can only be played by adults aged 21 or older. Come to the first floor of the school for some wine action and a lot of fun.

Just down the hall from the Cake Walk in the Media Center, the Auction will have several baskets of wine ready for gifting. They'll make great presents for birthdays, anniversaries, or Christmas--the perfect gift for anyone on your list! The highest bidder wins.

But that's not all--we also have a "Ring Toss for Wine" game under the Big Tent. Adults can try their skill at tossing a ring at bottles of wine. If you ring one, you can take home the bottle as a prize.



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7 games of skill will test your talents at the 2025 festival!

If you can climb, aim, shoot, throw, or toss, try your hand at one of the seven challenging Games of Skill at the “Autumn Daze” Festival. You can have some fun or win a consolation prize if you simply try out, but in order to win you have to show off your talents.

Games of Skill are geared for young adults. They are open throughout the entire festival weekend under the Big Tent. The full lineup includes the following:

- Duck Shoot
 - Marble Toss
 - *NEW* The 18th Hole
- Pop Toss
 - Ping Pong Toss
 - Basketball Shoot
- Slap Shot

Play Bingo to win a Quilt . . .

Fifty homemade quilts are the prizes for quilt bingo at the St. Helena “Autumn Daze” Festival, September 12 to 14, 2025. Each session of bingo features 10 games, with one quilt as a prize for each game. We now have an elevator in our school, so everyone can come play bingo! Come join us for good fun and a chance to take home a one-of-a-kind prize.

The women of St. Helena Parish and their friends have either tied or stitched 52 quilts when they gathered together last fall and winter and individually this past spring and summer. Fifty of these creative handiwork pieces will be prizes for five bingo sessions throughout the festival. The final two quilts will be raffled off in a final drawing on Sunday afternoon, September 14.

In advance of the festival, Quilt Bingo pre-sale tickets cost \$12 and are sold in the Parish Office. Each pre-sale ticket is worth 10 games. The tickets cost \$15 during the festival. The sessions are held in the school gymnasium at the following times:

- Friday evening, September 12 at 8:00 PM
- Saturday afternoon, September 13 at 1:00 PM
- Saturday evening, September 13 at 5:30 PM
- Saturday night, September 13 at 8:00 PM
- Sunday afternoon, September 14 at 1:30 PM

The women who worked together on these quilts have not only produced lovely pieces, but have also developed strong friendships as they gathered week-in and week-out. Quilting is a great way of helping the parish and the festival while doing something you love or learning a new and beautiful skill. We couldn’t have done this without the help of others who sewed quilt tops in their homes, hemmed the quilts and provided quilting fabric.

There are some people who come and quilt and who have made quilt tops who don’t even belong to the parish. The St. Helena Quilters are especially thankful to the non-parishioners who have donated quilt tops: Jena Bushey, Carol Fisher, Barbara McDonald, and Joanne Nash, daughters of the long-time, now deceased St. Helena quilter, Muriel Parent.

Quilting at the Church of St. Helena is about more than just producing beautiful bed coverings. It is an occasion for friendships to be strengthened and funds to be raised, which in turn helps the parish support the many spiritual, educational, and social programs offered by St. Helena Parish. We will begin quilting for the next festival in October and are always on the lookout for new quilters and sewers. Stop by the quilt raffle booth and check us out--we could use your help next year!

Hit the Jackpot with Eight \$500 Cover-All Cash Bingo

Two \$500 “Cover-All” Bingo games are scheduled for each day of the “Autumn Daze” Festival. Each set of two games is scheduled back-to-back, so if you don’t win the first game, you have a second chance immediately after the first.

Cash bingo games will be played in the school gymnasium at the following times:

Friday, September 12, 2025	
7:00	\$500 Guaranteed Cover-All Jackpot Bingo
9:00 PM	\$500 Guaranteed Cover-All Jackpot Bingo
9:30 PM	\$500 Guaranteed Cover-All Jackpot Bingo
Saturday, September 13, 2025	
7:00	\$500 Guaranteed Cover-All Jackpot Bingo
9:00 to 9:30 PM	\$500 Guaranteed Cover-All Jackpot Bingo
9:30 PM	\$500 Guaranteed Cover-All Jackpot Bingo
Sunday, September 14, 2025	
3:30 PM	\$500 Guaranteed Cover-All Jackpot Bingo
4:00 PM	\$500 Guaranteed Cover-All Jackpot Bingo

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PARISH MISSION

"The Holy Eucharist: Shadows and Fulfillment"

Sunday, Dec. 14 – Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025

6:00 - Confessions

7:00 - Talks by Fr. Cameron

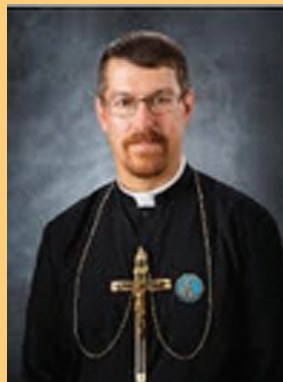


Church of St. Helena
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During the mission, participants will gather each evening for a series of talks on the Most Holy Eucharist:

- The Passover Sacrifice: The Holy Eucharist as Sacrifice
- The Manna: The Holy Eucharist as Communion with God
- The Bread of the Presence: The Holy Eucharist as Real Presence
- The Eucharistic Sacrifice: Renewal of the Covenant & Foretaste of Heaven

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Silent Auction 2025

We're getting ready for the 2025 Autumn Daze Silent Auction! The auction has everything you could possibly want or need, from a smart picture frame to a vintage radio to Nativity sets in multiple different styles. The Silent Auction opens on Friday, September 12, and runs throughout the weekend, closing on Sunday, September 14, at 3:00 PM. Bidding for the auction will take place online this year at www.autumndaze.org. It is simple and easy to bid on your favorite items with just a click. Select items will be available on display in the school cafeteria. Be sure to check back often and confirm your bidding status!

We have a huge range of items for everyone, from a blow-up kids bouncehouse to top tier camping equipment to bicycles for all ages. Other items include one-of-a-kind experiences such as tickets to Twins games and rounds of golf for the sports enthusiast. You'll find the perfect Christmas gifts with Lego sets or fine watches. We have gift certificates from local businesses for services and merchandise like hair salons, groceries, restaurants, and local theaters. Or if you're searching for that perfect unique household item for your home, you'll find high-end merchandise such as new luggage, fine china and dish sets, household appliances, speakers, and beautiful works of Catholic art.

Bidding will close Sunday at 3:00 and the highest bidder at that time will be the winner. Items will be available for pickup at 3:30 PM on Sunday or after the Festival at the Parish Offices.

Direct Auction Link: <https://shmpls2025.ggo.bid/bidding/package-browse>



A Tisket, a Tasket! Come Bid on a Basket!

A whole room on the first floor of the school will be filled with "Autumn Daze" gift baskets, awarded to the highest bidder. Each basket was thoughtfully crafted by volunteers from the parish around a unique theme. Bidding will take place online at www.autumndaze.org from Friday evening, September 12, at 6:00 PM until Sunday afternoon, September 14, at 3:00 PM, and the baskets will be on display in the school. There are other items to bid on in the Silent Auction, located in the cafeteria of the school.

The baskets make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, and Christmas, and bids begin at all different price points. Listed are some of the basket titles:

- Going to Grandma's
- Bird Watching
- Cobalt Blue Treasure (donated by Ceil Kelly)
- SKOL Vikings
- Getting Crafty
- Homemade Jams and Jellies
- Handyman Special
- Good morning, God
- Minnesota Twins
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Businesses who help to make the 2025 "Autumn Daze" a reality

We would like to thank the following businesses and parishioners for their generous donations to the success of this year's Autumn Daze festival:

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Visit the St. Helena School and Alumni Booth

Special alumni events, gifts! Come see what's new and reminisce.

21+ St. Helena School alumni!

St. Helena is hosting an event for 21+ alumni on Friday from 5 to 7 in the school.

Celebrate 99 years of Saint Helena Catholic School at Autumn Daze! As we prepare for our centennial anniversary next year, we're making a special effort to connect with our school alumni. We'll have school-branded swag just for our alumni who see us during Autumn Daze.

We'll also have a few other special opportunities to re-connect. On Friday evening, we're hosting an Alumni Happy Hour from 5pm to 7pm in the school office exclusively for school alumni 21 and older. For \$10, attendees get two drink tickets and free hors d'oeuvres. You will be able to start off the festival with a scenic overlook from the school office and catch up with old friends. It may be your only chance to have a drink in the Principal's Office!

Tour the Stained Glass Windows of St. Helena

St. Helena's stained glass windows are among the finest in the nation, and now you could have a front-row seat to see them in all their glory.

Legendary stained glass artist Conrad Pickel designed all 19 windows from his studio in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The windows were installed in the church in 1946 and 1947. Pickel was assisted in the window designs by St. Helena's first pastor, Msgr. Owen Rowan. The windows on the east side of the church depict stories from Jesus's early life and ministry, while the west side shows the events of Holy Week.

Join former St. Helena religion teacher Dan Ruble for 10-minute guided tours of the windows this Festival weekend. Tours will be held at 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, and 2:30 on both Saturday and Sunday.



On Saturday, we'll have a short ceremony to commemorate the laying of the cornerstone of the school in 1925.

Our school booth will have a free children's game and is a great chance to meet our school staff. Saint Helena has provided exceptional Catholic education to thousands of students from preschool through eighth grade over the years. Come see what's happening now and explore the option of educating your children at Saint Helena.

Volunteer at "Autumn Daze"

We couldn't make "Autumn Daze" the spectacular community event that it is without hundreds of hardworking volunteers. From set-up to food service to running the games to take down, the wonderful people of South Minneapolis and beyond get together and have some fun supporting their community and providing a friendly atmosphere for those who attend the festival.

If you'd like to get involved and volunteer, we have a myriad of options available, and there's sure to be something for every schedule and interest. You can sign up to run one of the games under the Big Tent for a few hours, work at one of the indoor specialty shops like the Harvest Gift Shoppe or the Silent Auction, or help with cleanup on Sunday evening after the close of the festival. Or if you have a special talent such as decorating or organizing, we'd be happy to put your skills to use.

Sign up at our website https://sthelena.ivolunteer.com/autumndaze_2025 or visit the Parish Office at 3204 E. 43rd Street for a printed form.

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“AUTUMN DAZE” – A FESTIVAL OF FOOD, FUN, AND FRIENDSHIP FOR ALL AGES SEPTEMBER 12, 13, and 14, 2025

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Helena School. The festival is open from 5:00 to 10:00 PM on Friday evening, September 12; 10:30 AM to 10:00 PM on Saturday, September 13; and 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 14. The nearby 46th Street Light Rail station provides a fast and easy way to get here. Invite family and friends from downtown to the Mall of America to take advantage of the rail station, just steps from the action. And there’s more to explore, including raffles, desserts, and specialty shops. With so many activities to choose from, there’s always one sure thing at “Autumn Daze.” And that is fun.

Just for kids

Some things never change, and children’s love for carnival rides is one of those. The festival rides are sure to delight children young and old. Rides begin Friday night and run all hours throughout the festival. Be sure to buy discounted ride tickets beforehand, available until 12:00 Noon on Friday, September 12, at the Parish Office. Ride tickets will be available for purchase during the festival at the special ride ticket booth in front of the school building. Other favorite activities for young ones at the festival include the games of chance, games of skill, and children’s games available under the Big Tent.

Food

Great food is an important ingredient for any festival, and St. Helena serves only the highest quality food at “Autumn Daze.” The list of favorites is long, so bring your appetite! We offer our famous roast pork sandwiches, Asian cuisine, roast beef sandwiches, hot dogs and brats, fried

fish (Friday night only), pork chops on a stick, and roasted corn on the cob. Be sure to leave extra room for some sweet treats: gourmet desserts and coffee, ice cream treats, cotton candy, pie, and mini donuts. Coffee, pop, bottled water, and beer are on hand to quench your thirst.

Entertainment

The festival provides free musical entertainment under the Big Tent beginning at 7:00 PM on Friday evening with Trailer Trash. A twenty-minute laser light show display will commence at 10:00 to close the first day of the festival.

The St. Helena Parade on Saturday morning features spectacular local talent such as the Simley High School Marching Band and Kracker Jack Drumline. An awards ceremony will take place on the stage under the Big Tent immediately following. At 4:00, Saturday Evening Mass will be celebrated in St. Helena Church. We’ll have musical entertainment throughout the day in various genres from blues to jazz to rock and roll.

Special 30-minute tours of the church’s beautiful stained glass windows will be held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

On Sunday, Mass will be celebrated in the church at 8:30 and 10:00 AM. More musical entertainment will follow.

Take a chance on raffles and auctions

You have chances to win great prizes like no other festival in Minnesota! Quilt Bingo and Cash Bingo are other popular games of chance which draw enthusiastic crowds year after year. The prize for each game of Quilt Bingo is a handmade quilt. Cash Bingo includes guaranteed cover-all \$500 games at 7:00, 9:00, and 9:30 PM on both Friday

and Saturday evenings in the school gym, plus two sessions on Sunday afternoon at 3:30 and 4:00. See the “Cash Bingo” schedule inside for more details.

“Autumn Daze” will again be offering a \$10,000 Raffle, where you have a 1-in-200 chance of winning \$10K! The Festival also includes the traditional “Autumn Daze Raffle,” with a grand prize of \$2,000. Other great prizes through the Raffle include gift certificates to groceries, Action Auto, and Carbone’s Pizzeria on Cedar. Tickets for the “Autumn Daze Raffle” are \$5 each and are available at the Parish Office or under the Big Tent. See the article on the raffle inside for a complete list of prizes.

A Silent Auction runs throughout the festival until 3:00 PM on Sunday in the school cafeteria. It will include merchandise, high-quality furniture, and gift certificates for entertainment and restaurants. Bidding for themed baskets will be held in the Media Center in the school until 3:00 PM on Sunday. Our online bidding platform at autumndaze.org provides the opportunity for anyone to view and bid on items, even if you can’t make it to the Festival during the weekend. Items will be available for pickup at 3:30 PM on Sunday or after the Festival at the Parish Offices.

Specialty shops

Specialty shops such as the Harvest Gift Shop offer many unique gifts, and the Country Store sells home-made baked goods and home-grown produce. The Book Store, Toy Shoppe, and Attic Treasures are sure to deliver some great deals.

With so many different things to do, there is surely something for everyone at the “Autumn Daze” Festival. We hope to see you there!





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\$2,000 Grand Prize for the 2025 “Autumn Daze” Raffle

One \$5 ticket can win you the grand prize of \$2,000 at the 5:00 PM drawing on Sunday, September 14, which closes the 2025 “Autumn Daze” Festival and Homecoming. If you purchase just one ticket, you are eligible for all 9 prizes at once. However, the more tickets you buy, the more chances you have! You don’t need to be present to win.

The prizes for the raffle include:

- \$2,000 cash grand prize
- \$600 cash, donated by St Helena Seniors’ Luncheon
- \$600 cash, donated by Lucy Koller
- \$300 certificate for groceries, compliments of Ron Carvatt

- 2 \$150 certificates for repairs (parts or labor, no tires), compliments of Action Auto - two separate winners will be drawn
- \$150 certificate for rentals, donated by Hiawatha Reddy Rents
- \$100 certificate for Towne Hall Lanes, compliments of Mary Kay Tessman
- \$100 certificate for Carbone’s Pizzeria on Cedar, compliments of Dennis and Jackie Fischbach

You have the chance to win all of these incredible raffle prizes for only \$5. Raffle tickets are available under the Big Tent during the festival or in advance at the Parish Office.

Handmade Quilt Prizes at the Quilt Raffle!

The 2025 Autumn Daze quilt raffle once again showcases two beautiful quilts, both handmade by the talented St. Helena Quilters.

One of them, pieced by Jena Bushey and hand quilted by St Helena quilters, features a beautiful Kaleidoscope pattern.. The kaleidoscope quilt is composed of different colored blocks in a palette of colors with a tone-on-tone green border and finished with a black flowered print border. The throw sized quilt measures 64” x 78” and has a white and gray polka dot back.

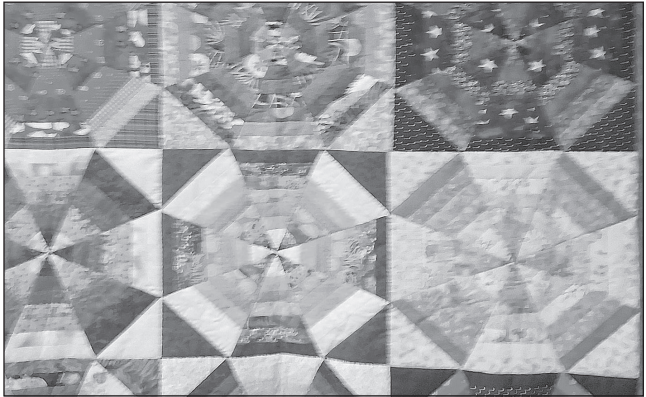
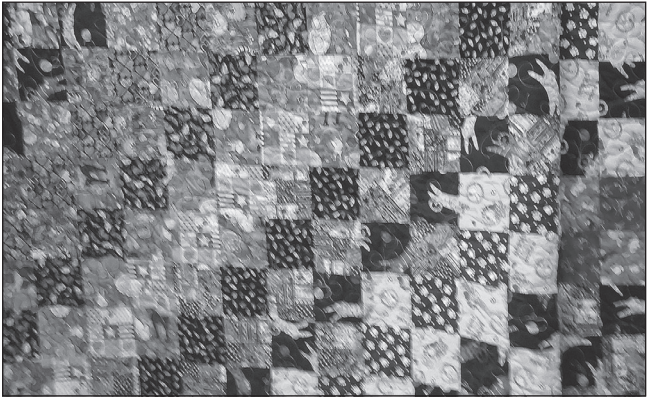
The other raffle quilt was pieced by Tim Schmitz and is machine quilted by Tim and Ellen Schmitz. It is composed of diagonal bright and dark “cat” squares with a dark gray print border and bound with red and white stripes. The full sized quilt measures 76” x 95”

with a cream and taupe back.

Chances cost \$5.00 each or three for \$12.00. The winning chances will be drawn under the big tent at 5:00 PM Sunday September 14. You need not be present to win.

Leading up to the festival, the quilts will be displayed in the back of church before and after all the weekend Masses and in Rowan Hall, the church’s lower level, after the 10:00 AM Sunday Masses during Coffee and Donuts. During the festival weekend they will be on display in the school gymnasium, where you can purchase chances to win them. Check them out when you come to play quilt bingo!

Thanks to Lucy Koller for writing this article.



Great Chances to Win: The 2025 Autumn Daze \$10,000 Raffle

Where can you get better odds than this? Not the lottery, that’s for sure! There aren’t many places where you have a 1 in 200 chance of winning cash, but you can get these odds at the “Autumn Daze” Festival.

Two hundred tickets will be sold for \$100 each, for a total of \$20,000. St. Helena Parish gets half (\$10,000), and the winner takes the other half (\$10,000). Tickets are already half-way gone, so act now to secure your spot and join in the fun!

The lucky winner will be announced at the closing ceremony on Sunday, September 14, at 5:00 PM. The winner does not have to be present at the drawing. Tickets will be sold at the Parish Office (3204 E 43rd St, South Minneapolis) or call 651-260-5722 in advance of the Festival, or stop by the booth outside the school entrance during the Festival weekend.

If \$100 is too much to purchase a ticket, go together with several friends who can chip in \$10, \$20, \$25, or \$50. Then, if you win, you can split the prize proportionately. You still have unbeatable odds!

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A Whole Weekend of FREE Musical Entertainment at “Autumn Daze”!

Nothing says “festival” like great food and live music. Here at “Autumn Daze,” we have both!

Trailer Trash, a festival favorite, will return this year to kick off the weekend during the Fish Fry on Friday evening. Friday night’s entertainment will end with a stunning laser light show.

Saturday has a packed schedule of free activities and shows, featuring fun for the whole family. First on the agenda is the popular “Autumn Daze” parade, which begins at 10:00 AM.

Parade participants can claim their awards for Best Vehicle, Best in Show, and Best Theme during the ceremony immediately following the parade on the entertainment stage. Saturday afternoon is filled with an exciting lineup of performers, including jazz music from festival favorite Pete Sappanos Trio, Matt Yetter playing blues music, and the Lex-Ham Community Band. We’ll finish with The Pearl Brothers performing hits from the 60’s to today.

Sunday’s entertainment features a Mariachi band, soloist Drake Walters and soloist Matt Yetter. We’ll finish with the Closing Ceremonies at 5:00pm where we will announce the raffle winners. The Autumn Daze Car Show will also be on display on Sunday along 32nd Avenue from 11:30am to 4:00pm.

All of this entertainment is provided to festival participants at no charge. Some of the musical groups for the parade and the stage are sponsored by donations from individuals and corporations. We thank them for providing us with our wonderful entertainment.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

★ ★ ★

Friday, September 12

Trailer Trash - 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Matt Yetter (Blues) - 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Pete Sappanos Trio - 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Pearl Brothers - 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

★ ★ ★

Saturday, September 13

Stone Arch Jazz Band - 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Lex-Ham Band - 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

★ ★ ★

Sunday, September 14

Mariachi Band - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Drake Walters (country) - 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Matt Yetter (Blues) - 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

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Date: _____ Signature Required: _____

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