

Year 1 Beginnings 2022-2023

Welcome Back!!

Hello & welcome to the Year 1 Beginnings program of the Parish Community of Saint Helen! Parents, did you know that you are the primary Catechists for your children? We are so happy to partner with you in this first formal year of faith formation for your child and share the joy of your child encountering Jesus Christ. Year 1 Beginnings is designed for children in first or second grade who are beginning their first year of Faith Formation.

The Year 1 Beginnings religious education program 2022-2023 will be held in person in the gym in Meany Hall! We ask you to drop your child off through the main Meany Hall entrance and pick them up there as well. There will be two lessons each month, one in person lesson and one at home lesson as described here:

- **The first lesson date** of each month is an **IN PERSON** one-hour large group session held in the gym. Each of these large groups will be divided into smaller groups at tables of about 10 children and led by the Beginnings Volunteer Ministry Team
- **The second lesson date** is an **AT HOME** parent/guardian lesson done with your child. This lesson will be sent to you via email through the touchpoint database of St. Helen. You and your child will do the lesson together. The at home lesson will involve an activity & prayer and the lesson is not due back to me.

We are so grateful to be back in person this year and we look forward to a wonderful faith filled & fun program. Children learn about their faith through praying together, singing songs of worship and praise, and learning about the Bible. We strive for consistency for the children in this ever-changing world, so our routine of the class begins each month with “The Gathering Song” with hand movements, an opening prayer, and a lesson on the Sacred Space. The theme of the lesson is introduced to the children through a video, a scripture reading and/or interactive questions as a large group. The volunteer Ministers take the 20-30 minutes of the middle of the hour to work with the children in small table groups. We end the lesson together in prayer and song before dismissal. The Year 1 Beginnings curriculum is based on Our Sunday Visitor publication for grade 1.

Volunteers: Saint Helen has a history of generous volunteers who help us run our religious education programs. The Year 1 Beginnings program will need about 50 volunteers in total, please consider joining our team!

- We will provide a **training meeting** on September 13 at 11:00am or 7:00pm in person
- Class materials and lesson plans are provided for you via email the week before each meeting for you to review.
- Responsibilities include teaching a small group of about 10 children within the large group session.
- The commitment is once a month from September through March.
- We also have a need for check in and check out volunteers for each session
- Middle School and High School students can be runners to fulfill their service hours
- Substitutes are welcome, please consider and let us know what days and times you are available.

Volunteer Guidelines: Volunteers over 18 who work with children need to take Protecting God's Children or Keeping the Promise Alive and submit a volunteer application along with a background check per the Archdiocese of Newark. Please click on this link from our website to read more about it.

<https://sainthelen.org/protecting-gods-children/> We can assist you with this process

Please pray on this and consider answering God's call to help in this Ministry. It is a rewarding and joyful experience. You can check off on the registration of your child that you elect to volunteer.

Religious Education Registration: If you are not already a registered Parishioner, please go to www.sainthelen.org and click on the top word “Welcome “ and follow instructions under the “I’m new” tab to register all the members of your family, not just your child.

- **The Religious Education registration link** will be emailed to you by June 11 and will be on our website and goes live on Monday, June 13 at 9:00am.
- **To select the session day and time:** click on the registration link, and it will bring you to the Religious Education registration. Please select the day and time of the large group session that you would like your child to attend which is Year 1 Beginnings.
- You must use your **child’s full name NOT a parent name.**
- Please pick the day/time that works **BEST** for your child to attend **from Sept.-March** we cannot move children into different sessions along the year.
- If the session is full, it will not allow you to select it please see schedule below.
- Classes will be in concert with the directives from the Archdiocese and the State of NJ and is subject to change as we are still in a pandemic.

Parent Meeting: Monday, September 12 at 5pm and 7pm for Grades 1 & 2 via zoom- Please attend one of the sessions. No registration needed a link will be sent the week before the meeting.

Volunteer Minister Training Meeting: Tuesday, September 13 at 11:00am or 7pm in person in the Meaney Hall gym – all volunteers need to attend one of the sessions.

Please read the schedule below which is subject to changes.

Beginnings Year 1 2022/2023	Monday Group A 3:45- 4:45PM	Monday Group B 5:30- 6:30PM	Wednesday Group C 3:45- 4:45PM	Wednesday Group D 5:30- 6:30PM
Large Group Session	Sept. 19	Sept. 19	Sept. 21	Sept. 21
Large Group Session	Oct. 3	Oct. 3	Oct. 12	Oct. 12
<i>At home lesson</i>	Oct. 17	Oct. 17	Oct. 19	Oct. 19
Large Group Session	Nov. 7	Nov. 7	Nov. 9	Nov. 9
<i>At home Lesson</i>	Nov. 14	Nov. 14	Nov. 16	Nov. 16
Large Group Session	Dec. 5	Dec. 5	Dec. 7	Dec. 7
<i>At home Lesson</i>	Dec. 12	Dec. 12	Dec. 14	Dec. 14
Large Group Session	Jan. 9	Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 11
<i>At home Lesson</i>	Jan. 23	Jan. 23	Jan. 25	Jan. 25
Large Group Session	Feb. 6	Feb. 6	Feb. 8	Feb. 8
<i>At home Lesson</i>	Feb. 13	Feb. 13	Feb. 15	Feb. 15
Large Group Session	Mar. 6	Mar. 6	Mar. 8	Mar. 8
<i>At home Lesson</i>	Mar. 13	Mar. 13	Mar. 15	Mar. 15
Large Group Session	Mar. 27	Mar. 27	Mar. 29	Mar. 29

Special Notes:

Wed., Feb. 22 @ 3:45PM	Children’s Ash Wednesday Service
Sun., Apr. 2	Passion Play Masses (Palm Sunday)
Thurs., Apr. 6	Holy Thursday
Fri., Apr. 7	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross – Outside
Sat., Apr. 8	Holy Saturday
Sun., Apr. 9	Easter Sunday

We are looking forward to meeting you all! Please feel free to contact me.

Peace & Blessings!

Nicole

Nicole Murphy – Director of Religious Ed. Gr. 1-4

nmurphy@sainthelen.org

908-232-1214 ext. 116

Marielle Brown– Religious Education Assistant

MBrown@sainthelen.org

908-232-1214 ext.109