

Year 2 Blessed 2022-2023

Holy Trinity school children who are Saint Helen Parishioners

Hello, my name is Nicole Murphy, I am the Director of Religious Education grades 1-4 at the Parish Community of Saint Helen. I was informed last year that Holy Trinity School does not include immediate preparation for First Reconciliation or First Communion. In response to this information, I have assessed the curriculum and have modified the attendance required for your child. I ask you to register your child for the Year 2 Blessed program here at Saint Helen but attend the bolded required sessions below on the schedule. Of course, the children are welcome to attend all of our sessions, but I do feel confident that the children will be prepared by coming to the below **bolded required classes**:

The children attending Holy Trinity school but parishioners of Saint Helen and making their First Reconciliation and First Communion at Saint Helen will follow the **bolded dates that say Holy Trinity attends – they are required sessions** with one optional first session.

Schedule: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Blessed – for Holy Trinity school children who are Parishioners of Saint Helen Year 2 2022/2023	Tuesday Group A 3:45- 4:45PM	Tuesday Group B 5:30- 6:30PM	Thursday Group C 3:45-4:45PM
Large Group Session (tour of the Church) optional session	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Sept. 22
Large Group Session -Holy Trinity attends	Oct. 11	Oct. 11	Oct. 13
Large Group Session	Oct. 25	Oct. 25	Oct. 27
Large Group Session Holy Trinity attend	Nov. 1	Nov. 1	Nov. 3
Large Group Session Holy Trinity attends	Nov. 15	Nov. 15	Nov. 17
Large Group Session	Dec. 6	Dec. 6	Dec. 8
Large Group Session Holy Trinity attends	Jan. 3	Jan. 3	Jan. 5
Reconciliation Practices during regular schedule sessions -Holy Trinity attends	Jan. 17	Jan. 17	Jan. 19
Large Group Session	Feb. 7	Feb. 7	Feb. 9
Large Group Session	Feb. 21	Feb. 21	Feb. 23
Large Group Session -Holy Trinity	Mar. 7	Mar. 7	Mar. 9
Blessing Cup Retreat with parent Holy Trinity attends	Mar. 14	Mar. 14	Mar. 16
Large Group Session- Holy Trinity	Mar. 28	Mar. 28	Mar. 30

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

Where are classes held? Year 2 Blessed will run in large group sessions held in the gym of Meaney Hall. You will bring your child into the main doorway of Meaney hall to check in at the main gym doors. Dismissal will also be at the main gym doors through Meaney hall.

Important Year 2 Blessed:

First Reconciliation dates and First Communion dates:

- Dates will be released at the parent meeting on September 12 at either 5:00pm or 7:00pm via zoom. No registration for the meeting is needed and a link will be sent the week before the meeting.
- You will select one time and date for each Sacrament through a registration process within the mysainthelen database. Dates and instruction for the registration will be announced at the parent meeting.

Blessing Cup Retreat with Potter Ray Boswell week of March 14 & 16 2023- during your child's session – this is a requirement for Holy Trinity students.

- This wonderful retreat presents God as the Potter, and we are his clay. Ray Boswell is an artist and retreat facilitator who uses his potter's wheel and clay to interact with the children and parents in preparation for First Communion.
- **A required parent/child event** in order for your child to make First Communion held the session week of March 14 & March 16, during your child's regular session
- There is no additional registration and no switching of sessions.

Baptism requirements: Baptismal certificates are required for your child to make his/her First Reconciliation and First Communion.

- All children Not Baptized at the Parish Community of Saint Helen will need to provide a copy of their Baptismal certificate to us before any Sacraments can be completed. Please take some time over the summer to reach out to your previous Parish for this document. You can scan and email a copy to me.
- If your child was Baptized at Saint Helen, we already have the required information.

Volunteers!!! Saint Helen has a history of generous volunteers who help us run our religious education programs. Year 2 Blessed will need 50 Volunteers. 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 twice 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 your child's 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 Year 2 Blessed.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Payment for Holy Trinity Students only** – Remember to click on “Finish Registration” and you will see a charge for \$215. Please enter the discount code HT2022-23 and click “Apply Code.” This will leave you with payment of \$50.00 which is the Sacrament fee. This is the only cost to you because you have a modified schedule.

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.

Peace & Blessings!

Nicole

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