

Year 2 Blessed 2022-2023

Welcome Back!!

Hello & welcome to the Year 2 Blessed program of the Parish Community of Saint Helen!

We are looking forward to a wonderful faith filled & fun program! The Year 2 Blessed program curriculum is - **Blessed from Dynamic Catholic.** Year 2 Blessed is the second year of our two-year Sacrament preparation program for First Reconciliation and First Communion. The Dynamic Catholic program teaches the children how much God loves them, how they are truly blessed and how to be the best version of themselves. We use the workbooks and selected videos along with prayer, music, songs, and scripture to engage the children during our sessions.

- There are three sessions for Year 2 Blessed for you to register in A, B, or C
- There will be two large group sessions a month per timeslot in the gym so please mark down the dates and times.
- Each large group will be divided into smaller groups at tables for the lesson.
- Attendance is especially important for your child so please make note of the calendar below.
- **Workbook 1 - First Reconciliation** – Your child will receive this workbook at their first session and will use for the first half of the program. This workbook delivers the message of the love of our Heavenly Father and prepares their hearts for First Reconciliation.
- **Workbook 2 First Communion** - Your child will receive this workbook after they receive First Reconciliation. This workbook introduces children to the incredible gift of the Eucharist.
- Your child will need to bring the appropriate workbook to and from class and we encourage you to look through the workbook with your child as the year goes along.

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:

- 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 instructions 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 class session they are registering for:

- 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.
- **This is a required parent/child event** in order for your child to make First Communion held the week of March 14 & March 16, during your child's regular class session.

- There is no additional registration for the Blessing Cup Retreat as the retreat is scheduled during your child's class time also there is 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 or my Assistant.
- If your child was Baptized at Saint Helen, we have the required information needed.

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 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 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 please find the 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.

Holy Trinity school students – If your child attends Holy Trinity school and is making their Sacraments at Saint Helen, please reach out to me as they can attend an adjusted 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.

SCHEDULE: Please read the schedule below which is subject to changes.

Blessed 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	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Sept. 22
Large Group Session	Oct. 11	Oct. 11	Oct. 13
Large Group Session	Oct. 25	Oct. 25	Oct. 27
Large Group Session	Nov. 1	Nov. 1	Nov. 3
Large Group Session	Nov. 15	Nov. 15	Nov. 17
Large Group Session	Dec. 6	Dec. 6	Dec. 8
Large Group Session	Jan. 3	Jan. 3	Jan. 5
Reconciliation Practices during regular schedule sessions	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	Mar. 7	Mar. 7	Mar. 9
Blessing Cup Retreat with parent	Mar. 14	Mar. 14	Mar. 16
Large Group Session	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

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

Peace & Blessings!

Nicole

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