**Year 2 Blessed 2023-2024**

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.

**The Year 2 Blessed religious education program 2023-2024 will be held in room 102/103 of Meaney Hall**.  We ask you to walk your child into the Meaney Hall entrance and you will see our check-in table where you will drop your child off, pick up is in the same hallway. There are two in person sessions for your child to attend each month, please follow the schedule below. Each large group session will be divided into smaller groups at tables for the lesson.

**Payment for Holy Trinity Students only** – please contact Nicole Murphy for this information**.**

**Parent Meeting is Tues. September 12 at  10:00am or 7:00pm in the gym of Meaney Hall -** - a link will be sent for you to register in late August for you to register for one meeting.

* Attendance is especially important so please mark down the dates on your calendar.
* **Workbook 1 - First Reconciliation** – Your child will receive this workbook at their first session and will use it 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.

**First Reconciliation dates and First Communion dates: Will be released at the Parent meeting on September 12.**

* **Sacrament Date Registration** - You will select one time and date for each Sacrament through aregistration process within the mysainthelen database. Registration for First Reconciliation will be Nov. 1, 2023, Registration for First Communion will be Feb.1, 2024.
* **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.

**Blessing Cup Retreat with Potter Ray Boswell - required parent & child retreat in the Church at Saint Helen:**

* Potter Ray Boswell uses his potter’s wheel and clay to interact with the children and parents in preparation for First Communion at this wonderful retreat.
* The Blessing Cup Retreat is a required parent & child event as part of your child's immediate preparation for First Communion, this requirement is from the Archdiocese of Newark.
* **Please SAVE THE DATE AS THIS IS REQUIRED and a special retreat!**
  + **Group A & B will attend on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30-7:45pm.**
  + **Group C &D will attend on Thursday, March 7 at 6:30-7:45pm**
  + **There is no registration for the Blessing Cup Retreat**

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

* If your child was Baptized at Saint Helen, we have the required information needed.
* 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.

**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!

* The **NEW volunteer** **training meeting** is on Wed. September 13 at 7:00pm in room 102/103 in Meaney Hall.
* Class materials and lesson plans are provided for you via email the week before each meeting for you to review.
* Responsibilities include instructing 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.
* **Substitutes are needed too,** let us know what days and times you are available if you can't make the commitment for all the dates.

**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.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Blessed**  **Year 2**  **2023/2024** | **Tuesday**  **Group A**  **3:45-4:45PM** | **Tuesday**  **Group B**  **5:30-6:30PM** | **Thursday**  **Group C**  **3:45-4:45PM** | **Thursday**  **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. 5 | Oct. 5 |
| Large Group Session | Oct. 17 | Oct. 17 | Oct. 19 | Oct. 19 |
| Large Group Session | Nov. 14 | Nov. 14 | Nov. 16 | Nov. 16 |
| Large Group Session | Dec. 5 | Dec. 5 | Dec. 7 | Dec. 7 |
| Large Group Session | Dec. 19 | Dec. 19 | Dec. 21 | Dec. 21 |
| Large Group Session | Jan. 9 | Jan. 9 | Jan 11 | Jan.11 |
| Reconciliation Practices during regular schedule sessions | Jan. 16 | Jan. 16 | Jan 18 | Jan. 18 |
| Large Group Session | Jan. 30 | Jan. 30 | Feb. 1 | Feb. 1 |
| Large Group Session | Feb. 6 | Feb. 6 | Feb. 8 | Feb. 8 |
| Large Group Session | Feb. 20 | Feb. 20 | Feb. 22 | Feb. 22 |
| Blessing Cup Retreat required  to attend with parent | Mar. 5  6:30-7:45 in Church | Mar. 5  6:30-7:45 in Church | Mar. 7  6:30-7:45 in Church | Mar. 7  6:30-7:45 in Church |
| Large Group Session | Mar. 19 | Mar. 19 | March 21 | Mar. 21 |

**Special Notes**:

Wed., Feb. 14, 3:45pm - Ash Wednesday Services

Sun., Mar. 24 - Palm Sunday (Passion Play Masses)

Thurs., Mar. 28 - Holy Thursday

Fri., Mar. 29 - Good Friday - Children’s Stations of the Cross – Outside

Sat., Mar. 30 - Holy Saturday

Sun., Mar. 31 - Easter Sunday

We are looking forward to meeting you at the parent meeting.  If you want to contact us, please see our information below.

Peace & Blessings!

Nicole

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Nicole Murphy*  Director of Religious Education Grades 1-4  Parish Community of Saint Helen  [nmurphy@sainthelen.org](mailto:nmurphy@sainthelen.org)  908-232-1214, ext. 116 | *Marielle Brown*  Religious Education Assistant Gr 1-4  Parish Community of Saint Helen  [MBrown@sainthelen.org](mailto:MBrown@sainthelen.org)  908-232-1214, ext. 109 |