

Parent Meeting

9/12/23

Year 1 Beginnings and Year 2 Blessed 2023-
2024

Parish Community of Saint Helen

Mission Statement

- Worshipping God
- Making Disciples
- Serving Others



Welcome Friends! — thank you all for coming

Nicole Murphy- DRE Grades 1-4



Marielle Brown – Asst. Grades 1-4



The Gathering Song



The Gathering Song

- <https://youtu.be/oX5-41hBnVk>
- To hear the Gathering Song click on the above link

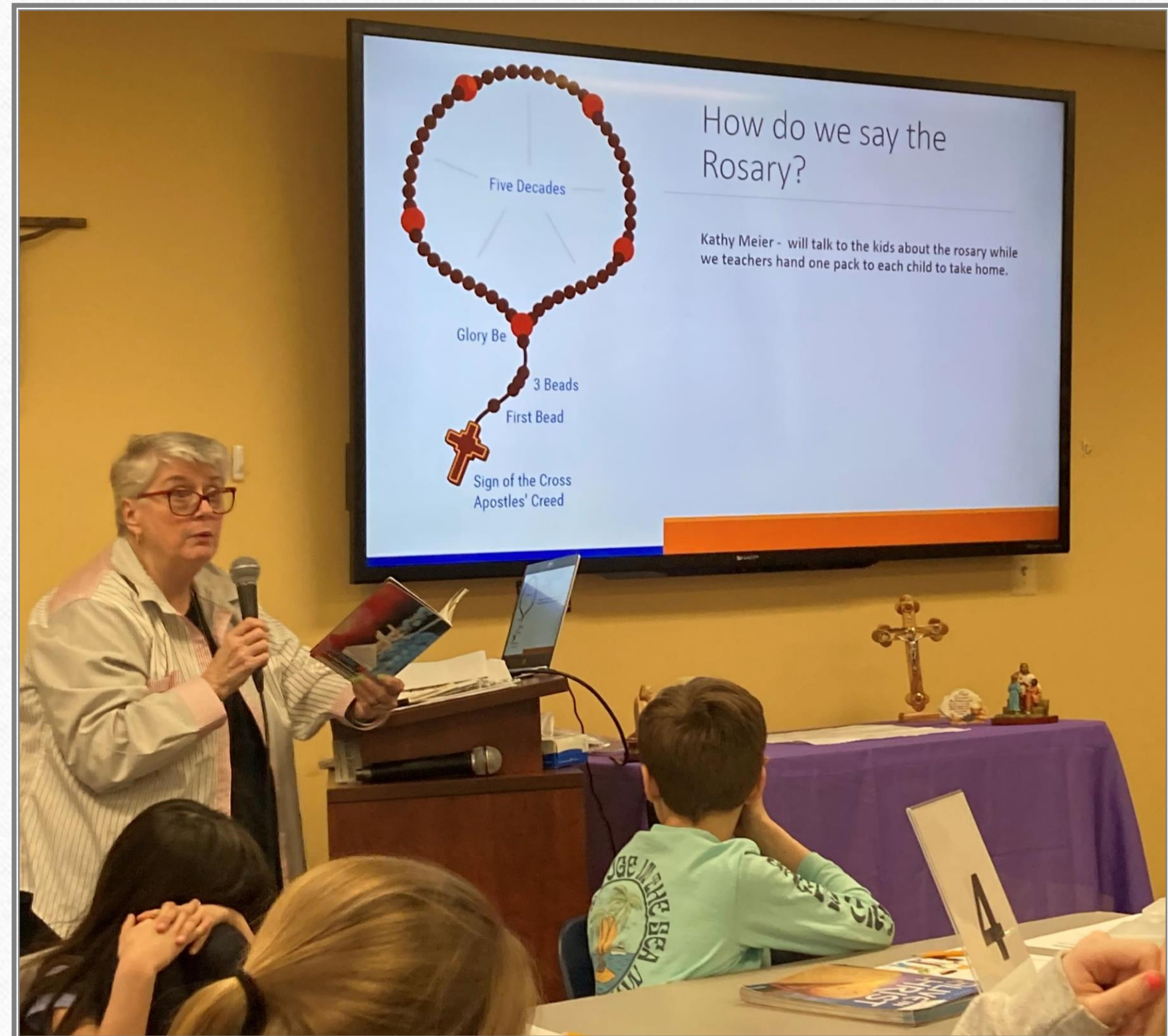


Welcome and Opening Prayer

- Msgr. Tom Nydegger

New things for grades 1-4!

- All classes in room 102/103
- A GIANT THANK YOU to all who were able to volunteer to teach or check in and their supportive families



We are happy to announce a new ministry for families of grades 1-4 **Elementary Families Together!!!** – bringing families together for fun, faith & service! (EFT) - as seen on the email we sent last week.

Elementary Families Together (EFT) - Here are some dates for you to save!

1. **“Welcome back event”** - Friday, September 22 at 6pm in the gym – join us for pizza, service and fun! Please bring 1 loaf of bread per family, we will be making sandwiches for the needy. A registration link will be forthcoming to you via email and on our website! We need a pizza count! But if you decide last minute please and don't register, please come anyway!
2. **“Elementary Families Together - FIRST PARENT PLANNING MEETING”** - Wednesday, September 27, 7pm in Room 102/103 – **PARTICIPATION NEEDED!!** Please come, get involved and help make the events happen! ***“I am the vine; you are the branches” John 15***
3. **Harvest Fest!”** – Saturday, October 21, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 – trunk or treat in the Saint Helen's parking lot – we will need parents to volunteer to make this happen. A registration link will be forthcoming.
4. Questions? – email Nicole Murphy nmurphy@sainthelen.org

Serving Others

- St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Food Kitchen flyers are up front for all those interested in cooking or serving - please consider!
- Marilyn Ryan is our Pastoral Associate to contact if you have questions mryan@sainthelen.org

House keeping (Marielle) - MySaintHelen database your contact information

- All email communication from us goes through this database, we email to “**parents of**” the child, so we do need all family members listed. If you do not have any parents on your account you will not get any email information.
- Please continue to update your mySaintHelen database account as your information changes
- As a phone number, email or address changes please update, please reach out to us if you need help or contact Carolyn Colonna
ccolonna@sainthelen.org

Nicole - Information for both Year 1 Beginnings and Year 2 Blessed children- slides 10-15

- Classes are held in room 102/103 for grades 1-4. **Please read the scheduled dates and mark on the calendar only one program in room 102/103 at a time.**
- All sessions are fun, interactive, large group sessions, with small group time for table activities and discussions. I am present at the sessions to support teachers throughout the session.
- Please attend Mass with your children & pray with them at home, practice the Hail Mary and Lord's Prayer
- Children's Liturgy of the Word begins Sept. 24 at 10:00am Mass**
- Please keep us abreast of anything going on with your child that you feel would be important for us to know, our door is always open, all is confidential

Routine

Routine is very important for young children. We keep the routine the same at all sessions. We will begin each session with the following as a group:

- The Gathering Song – beginning of each session
- Opening Prayer (Sign of the Cross) – the Lord's Prayer
- The Sacred Space lesson
- A video with the class theme
- Closing prayer – the Hail Mary

Arrival and check in Procedure

Arrival is through the main Meaney Hall door

- Please arrive on time, by 3:45 (A&C), by 5:30 (B&D)
- When you walk into the main door of Meaney Hall you will see the check in table.
- You and your child will be greeted by a volunteer at the check in table.
- We will take attendance at the table, give your child a nametag and we send the child into room 102/103.

Door schedule/late arrivals

- Main entrance door of Meaney Hall unlocked for arrivals 3:30--3:55 (Group A & C) 5:15-5:40 (Group B & D)
- The door will be locked at 4:00pm and 5:45pm for the safety of the children.
- If you arrive after that time, please knock on the door and we will let you in and escort your child into the class.

Pick up procedure

Pick up is through the main Meaney Hall door

- The door will open by 4:30 (A&C) and 6:15 (B&D) for pick up.
- When you walk into the main door of Meaney Hall please line up at the table.
- You will be greeted by a volunteer at the table, we will ask you to give us your child's name.
- We will call your child to exit the door in 103 closest to the entrance/pick up hallway.

Health updates & attendance

- We follow the health and safety procedures of the Archdiocese of Newark and the State of NJ
- Medical paperwork - If your child has a medical need please let us know in the next week as certain paperwork is needed. For example, if an epi pen is needed please see us for paperwork to be filled out.
- **If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home to rest and get better. We ask that you notify Marielle Brown as early as possible via email if your child will be absent mbrown@sainthelen.org**
- We take attendance at every session, if absent the lesson will be emailed to the parents by the end of the week for you to review with your child.
- **NO FOOD IN SESSIONS** - Please keep food and drink at home unless medically necessary as we have many children with food allergies.
Do not send in a water bottle with your child unless they really use it and need it. We threw out about 50 water bottles that were left behind last year and not recovered in the lost and found. We are only in for a short while so if needed have your child eat a snack before they arrive.

Year 1 Beginnings 2023-2024

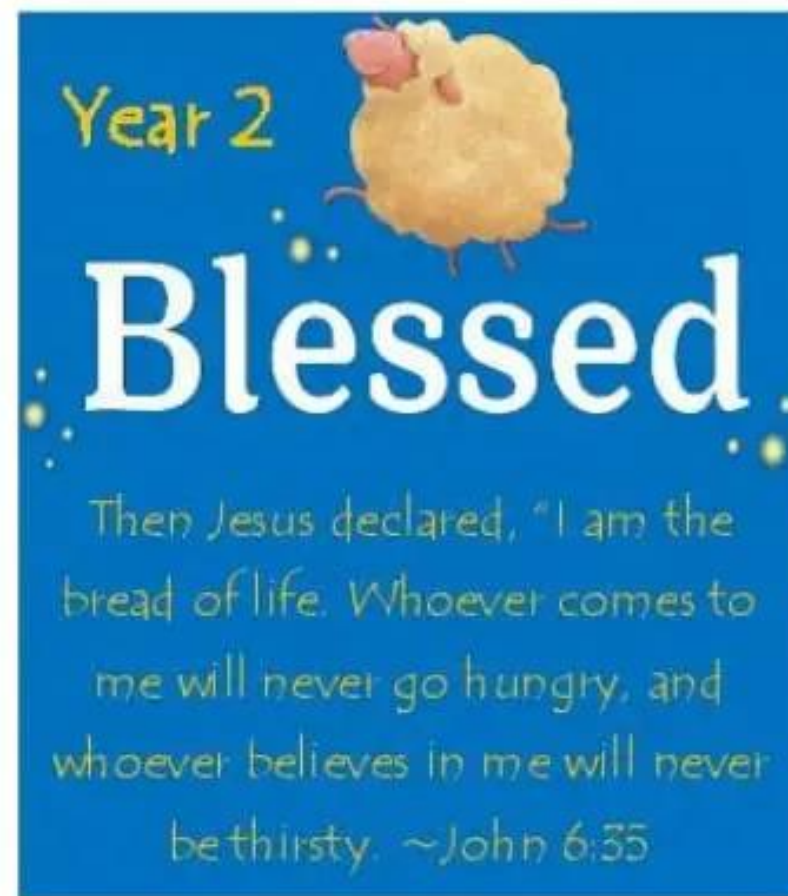
"For through faith you are all
children of God in Christ Jesus"
~Galatians 3:26



Year 1 Beginnings Program

- The First Year of your child's Faith Formation – please visit Saint Helen if your child has not been here before, so they are comfortable.
- There is **one in person** each month – please try to attend all sessions
- There is one at home lesson once a month - emailed to you by Nicole on the dates listed on the schedule. There is no homework to be sent back. You the parent will do the lesson with your child at home together.
- Learning prayers – The Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, Glory be and more
- Prayer booklets made each month in class and sent home in March.
- Based on Our Sunday Visitor publication – Outline of the year will be sent home after the first class.
- Are there any questions so far and for Year 1 Beginnings?
- ***Parents in Year 1 only are welcome to leave now or stay as we discuss Year 2 Blessed.***

Year 2 Blessed 2023-2024



Year 2 Blessed Program

- The second year of your child's two-year Sacrament preparation program for First Reconciliation and First Communion.
- Dynamic Catholic is our curriculum and teaches the children how much God loves them, how they are truly blessed and how to be the best version of themselves
- Sessions meet in person twice a month
- Attendance is required for all classes, no switching of sessions
- First Reconciliation workbook Sept. 2023 – Jan. 2024 (First Reconciliations)
- First Communion workbook Feb. 2024 – March 2024 First Communions May 2024

First Reconciliation – dates & practices

First Reconciliation Dates – we do not take requests, please make note of the registration date and time for you to get the session you need. 165 children about 55 children per session per 5 Priests.

- Jan. 19, 2024 At 5:30pm
 - Jan 20, 2024 At 11:30am
 - Jan. 20, 2024 at 2:00pm
- **First Reconciliation Practices-** Required attendance during class times already on the schedule January 16 & January 18, 2024. Parents do not attend.

First Reconciliation – registration

First Reconciliation preparation and Registration:

- We will prepare the children for this Sacrament from September until January in class.
- You register your child for one First Reconciliation date through a registration link just as you did for the parent meeting but using your CHILD'S NAME.
- **We email you the First Reconciliation registration link to the email on your mysainthelen account.**
- **Registration opens Wednesday, November 1 at 9:00am**
- You will be emailed a receipt stating the time and date that you registered your child for. Please make sure you hit the buttons “submit” and “complete registration”.
- You will get a receipt and that is how you know you have registered.

- **Baptismal Certificates** - must be scanned and sent to Marielle Brown at mbrown@sainthelen.org or a copy brought to Parish Center by Nov. 1, 2023. If your child was Baptized at Saint Helen we already have the information so no need to send us anything



First Reconciliation 2023-2024

Nicole Murphy ▼

Cancel this person

Do you have any questions or information you would like share?

Which date do you choose for First Reconciliation: *

☐ January 19, 2024 5:30pm

☐ January 20, 2024 11:30am

☐ January 20, 2024 2:00pm

All students must be Baptized to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If your child was Baptized at St. Helen please select YES. If your child was NOT Baptized at St. Helen please select NO. *

First Reconciliation Registration

- You will receive a link prior to Nov. 1
- The link will be live on Nov. 1 9:00am
- **YOU MUST KNOW YOUR USERNAME AND PASSWORD TO MYSAINTHELEN ACCOUNT TO REGISTER – SEE MY NAME**
- **Click on the link and you select one date**
- **There is one question if your child was Baptized at St. Helen**

Blessing Cup Retreat with Potter Ray Boswell



- Attendance for this retreat is required along with a parent/guardian -
- Group A & B attend Tuesday March 5 at 6:30pm, 2024.
- Group C & D attend Thursday March 7 at 6:30pm
- This retreat is held in our Church
- Ray Boswell brings his artistic and theological talent to us explaining how God is the Potter and we are His clay in a concrete way. The children take home a Chalice.

First Communion dates/practices

First Communion Registration – opens **Feb 1, 9:00am** on the link we email you through your mysainthelen database Parents must logged into your mysainthelen account. Register your **CHILD'S NAME**.

41/42 children per Mass - please be flexible on day and time we have 165 children. We do not take requests.

First Communion dates –

Sat., May 4 at 11:30am and 2:00pm

Sat. May 11 at 11:30am and 2:00pm

First Communion Practice (parent required to attend with child)

- Tues., April 30 at 3:45pm for Communions on Sat., May 4 at 11:30am
- Tues. April 30 at 5:30pm for Communions on Sat. May 4 at 2:00pm.
- Tues., May 7 at 3:45pm for Communions on Sat., May 11 at 11:30am
- Tues. May 7 at 5:30pm for Communions on Sat. May 11 at 2:00pm.

First Communion - registration

First Reconciliation preparation and Registration:

- We will prepare the children for this Sacrament from Feb- Mar. in class and they receive a new workbook for First Communion in Feb.
- You register your child for one First Communion date through a registration link just as you did for First Reconciliation using the child's name.
- **We email you the First Communion registration link to the email on your mysainthelen account and it opens Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 at 9:00am.**
- You will be emailed a receipt stating the time and date that you registered for. Please make sure you hit the buttons "submit" and "complete registration"
- You will get a receipt and that is how you know you have registered.
- We do not take requests, please make note of the registration date and time for you to get the session you need.

First Communion information

- Children will sit together in first 4 pews in center two pew banks
- Each child receives one at a time from Msgr. Tom
- Children need to be dropped off in the Chapel by 11:00am or 1:30pm for Procession line up.
- Procession of the children before each Mass – 11:15 or 1:45.
- Open seating for all families – no reserved seating
- Special needs must be told to us by April 25.
- Church opening time TBD
- Live streamed- link sent week of the Communion.

Low Gluten Hosts

- If your child has an allergy to gluten, please let us know as soon as possible
- Other relatives – parents and other relatives you know about in advance please tell us by April 25
- People who arrive that day – tell Hospitality Ministers upon arrival so they can have enough low gluten hosts





Dress code

- Here are some examples of what the children wear.

Parishioners from Holy Trinity - classes to attend

Groups A & B – Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14., Dec. 5, Jan. 9, Jan. 16, Feb. 6, Feb. 20,
Mar. 5 6:30pm in the Church (Blessing Cup Retreat parent & child) Mar. 19

Groups C & D- Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Mar. 7
6:30pm (Blessing Cup Retreat parent & child) Mar. 21

First Reconciliation Practice during scheduled classes Jan. 16 & Jan. 18 no parent attends

Save the date! The Feast of Corpus Christi- Sunday, June 2, after the 12pm Mass

All First Communicants invited back to follow the Procession of the Eucharist

This is the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ



Questions???

Nicole Murphy - DRE Grades 1-4
nmurphy@sainthelen.org - 908-232-1214 ext. 116

Marielle Brown- Rel. Ed. Assistant
mbrown@sainthelen.org - 908-232-1214 ext. 109

This pdf will be posted on the Religious Ed. Grades 1-4 page on our website.

All schedules are on our Religious Education page <https://sainthelen.org/children/>