



Dear St. Helen Parishioner:

It is such a blessing to be starting my second year as pastor of St. Helen Parish. I am looking forward to seeing all of our St. Helen school families again and getting to know all of our new ones on a personal level. My goal remains the same; is to help you grow closer to Jesus Christ and deepen your Catholic faith. All of our St. Helen priests and deacons look forward to accompanying you, as well.

The clergy of St. Helen are invested in the faith journey of each student attending St. Helen Catholic School, St. Anastasia Catholic School, and John Carroll Catholic High School. The parishioners of St. Helen are also invested in our children. Their donations are an important means of covering part of the cost of educating our students.

One dimension of being a practicing Catholic is fulfilling our weekly obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and Solemn Feast Days of Obligation. It is important that we work together to fulfill this important, formative responsibility we have to our families, especially our children. In this regard, we are continuing our program to encourage regular Mass attendance and to provide a means for me and my fellow priests and deacons at St. Helen to become better acquainted with your family. The program is outlined on the enclosed sheets. Moving forward into the 2023 / 2024 school year, receiving the subsidized tuition rate at St. Helen Catholic School is predicated on your adherence with this program.

Fr. Brian Campbell, pastor of St. John of the Cross, Fr. Tom Barrett, pastor of Holy Cross, Deborah Irish, Cory Heroux, and I have worked together to on this program which will help us maintain accurate records of each family's weekly Mass attendance. It is our intent to help in whatever manner we can with the assurance that your full participation in this program will be a notable blessing to your family, our schools, and our parish community.

I am hopeful that the enclosed details of this program will be easy to follow. The program is on the Church website: www.sthelenvero.org under Parish Events.

Please be assured you and your families are in my prayers. My wish is for health, happiness, and holiness for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Matthew DeGance
Pastor



PARISH PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

- Our Mass voucher program began August 28, 2021.
- If you are a registered parishioner of St. Helen and have a student attending St. Helen Catholic School, you participate in this program. Each enrollment year you are required to complete a Parish Affiliation form and have it signed by Fr. Matthew DeGance. If our records indicate that you have not been participating in this program by turning in a Mass voucher, your parish affiliation form will not be signed, and your tuition rate will be adjusted to reflect the non-subsidized rate.
- The subsidized rate is applicable upon receipt of the Parish Affiliation Form. This form must be submitted by the family directly to the Church office each year during the re-enrollment process. New families must have a letter from their previous Catholic Church confirming registration (for first year only) to receive the subsidized rate.
- The subsidized tuition rate will be determined based on your participation the voucher program. The tuition rate for SHCS students will be reviewed twice annually. To receive the subsidy, your family will need to attend 80% of the weekend Masses during each of these two time periods (July through December and January through June). Your tuition rate is based on your Mass attendance in the previous 6 months period, so it is imperative that you turn in your Mass voucher each week. If your attendance falls below 80%, you will not receive the tuition subsidy, and your tuition will revert to the standard rate for the next semester.
- For the 2022 / 2023 school year your tuition rate is set, and there will be no adjustments.
- When you apply for the 2023 / 2024 school year, your tuition rate will be based on your Mass attendance from August 2022 through December 2022. If your Mass attendance from January 2023 through June 2023 is above or below the 80% threshold, your tuition will be adjusted accordingly for the second semester.
- We track your Mass attendance through our voucher program. It is not tracked through offertory due to online giving and donations received by mail. Offertory donations are not indicative of Mass attendance.
- St. Helen Church will supply your family with a booklet of attendance vouchers. Your parish ID and family roster are included in this packet. Please make sure we have your current contact information on file. If you need to update your family information please call Laura Lewis at the parish office, 772-567-5129 or email LLewis@sthelenvero.org.
- To assist clergy in getting to know your family better, it is your responsibility to physically hand your voucher to a priest or deacon after Mass at St. Helen Church.
- Be sure your voucher is filled out completely with your name, address, date, and parish ID.
- Please DO NOT place your voucher in the collection basket. Offertory and special collection envelopes are handled separately.

- In the event you forget your voucher while attending Mass, we will have extras available at the doors to the Church. Additional voucher books are available at the Church office.
- Attending a Mass during the week does not count as fulfilling your Sunday obligation and Holy Days of Obligation.
- As a parishioner of St. Helen, you are expected to be involved in Church ministry. We are asking that each parent and student in 4th grade or higher participate or volunteer one hour per month in a ministry or by attending a church event. This is in addition to the St. Helen School volunteer requirements.
- Our Parish Handbook is available online and each ministry of St. Helen has a page on our website www.sthelenvero.org. Special events are listed on the Church website and in our weekly bulletin.
- Hours can be tallied such that 4 hours of service fulfills the expectation of 4 months.
- Please track your hours in Ren Web. There is a “church” category in the drop-down box.
- Please call the parish office with any questions regarding the Mass attendance program.

Our Weekend Mass Times

Saturdays at 4 p.m.

Sundays at 7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. in Spanish & 5 p.m.

Our Holy Days of Obligation Mass times are the same as above.

On some Holy Days there may be an additional Mass, check the website or bulletin.