



## **FOR FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES / 2022-2023**

Dear St. Helen Parishioner:

It is such a blessing to be starting my second year as the pastor of St. Helen Parish. I am looking forward to seeing our Faith Formation families again and getting to know all our new ones on a personal level. My goal remains the same; it is to help you grow closer to Jesus Christ and deepen your Catholic faith. 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 enrolled in our Faith Formation program. 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.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice." (CCC 2181) This obligation is for all Holy Days of Obligation, as well. 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. Celebrating the sacraments will be predicated on your attendance and adherence with this program.

Fr. Brian Campbell, pastor of St. John of the Cross, Fr. Tom Barrett, pastor of Holy Cross, Debbie Irish, Cory Heroux, and I have worked together 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. They can also be accessed from the Church website: [www.sthelenvero.org](http://www.sthelenvero.org) under Parish Events.

Please be assured you and your families will be remembered 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 2022/2023**

- This program began August 28, 2021.
- If you are a registered parishioner of St. Helen and have a student attending one of our Faith Formation programs, you participate in this program.
- It is imperative that you turn in your Mass voucher each week and maintain an 80% or higher Mass participation rate throughout the year.
- Attendance below 80% indicates you are not ready to receive the sacrament. The Director of Religious Education will schedule a meeting with you.
- We track your Mass attendance through our voucher program. We do not track 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 is 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](mailto: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 should be involved in Church ministry. We are asking that each parent and student in fourth grade or higher participate or volunteer one hour per month in a ministry or by attending a church event.
- Our Parish Handbook is available online and each ministry of St. Helen has a page on our website [www.sthelenvero.org](http://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 call the parish office with any questions regarding the Mass attendance program.