



Parish Handbook

2024 / 2025

St. Helen Catholic Church

2000 20th Street

Vero Beach, Florida 32960



Parish Office

2085 Tallahassee Ave.

Vero Beach, FL 32960

Phone: 772-567-5129

Fax: 772-567-1061

Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Email: church@sthelenvero.org

Website: www.sthelenvero.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sthelenvero

Instagram: [@sthelenvero](https://www.instagram.com/sthelenvero)

St. Helen Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Helen Parish is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through a loving community which strives to meet the spiritual and physical needs of its members. We invite all to join us in fulfilling the living call of Christ to: “Go then, to all people everywhere and make them My disciples.” (Mt.28:19)

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Original Church 1919



A Message from Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners of St. Helen,

It is with gratitude to God that we offer this parish handbook to you. St. Helen parishioners are a community of people who are engaged and hard-working, living out the Gospel values of “loving God, neighbor and self.” We are also a community excited about our faith. Please use this handbook as a resource to challenge yourself in a variety of ways to serve and be served. I would hope that all of you serve our parish and the community in some way.

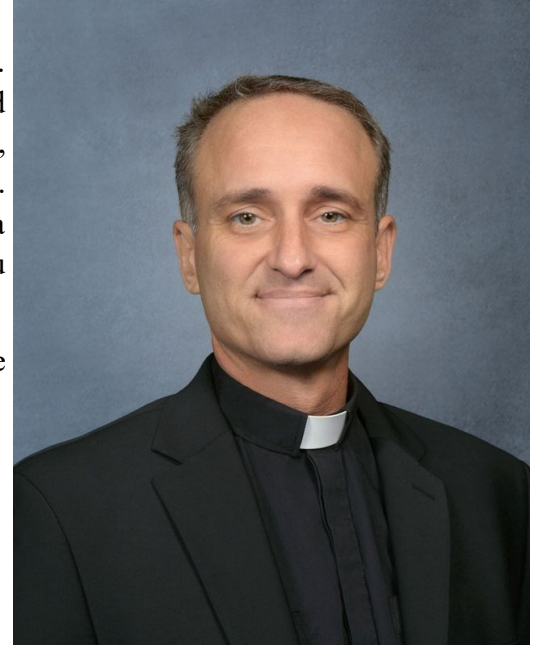
May this handbook help us to know and love each other all the more and give testimony to the love of Jesus who dwells within us.

Pax,



Reverend Matthew DeGance

Pastor



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:15 p.m. in Spanish, and 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays (Monday thru Saturday): 7:30 a.m. & 8:40 a.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to Noon & 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Available by appointment, call 772-567-5129

Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

In the Chapel. Stop in or utilize our online scheduling system.
To become a regular adorer or a substitute,
visit: www.sthelenvero.org/adoration/

Novena Prayers

Recited in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help following the 8:40 a.m.
Mass every Wednesday

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

First Saturday of each month after the 8:40 a.m. Mass or call the Parish Office 567-5129.

Rosary

The Rosary is prayed each weekday morning after
the 7:30 a.m. Mass and at noon on Monday in the Chapel.



CLERGY AND PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Matthew DeGance

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Frank D'Amato

Fr. Emmanuel Ajah

Deacons

Telephone: 772-567-5129

Deacon David Hankle, dhankle@sthelenvero.org

Deacon Tom Nowak, tnowak@sthelenvero.org

Director of Operations

Laura Lewis

Telephone: 772-567-5129, llewis@sthelenvero.org

Operations Assistant / Sacristan

Will Heady

Telephone: 772-567-5129, wheady@sthelenvero.org

Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Eidemueller

Telephone: 772-567-5129, seidemueller@sthelenvero.org

Parish Receptionist

Mary Ann Ogrodowski

Telephone: 772-567-5129, mogrodowski@sthelenvero.org

Director of Maintenance

Jim Capito

Telephone: 772-567-5129, jcapito@sthelenvero.org

Director of Music

Tom Schuster

Hours by appointment 772-567-5129, tschuster@sthelenvero.org

Outreach Assistance Office

Paige Fies

1031 18th Street, Suites F & G, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Hours: Monday through Friday

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Telephone: 772-567-5193, outreach@sthelenvero.org

Director of Religious Education

Paige Fies
2005 Tallahassee Ave.
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Telephone: 772-562-5954, pfies@sthelenvero.org

Youth Ministry Coordinator

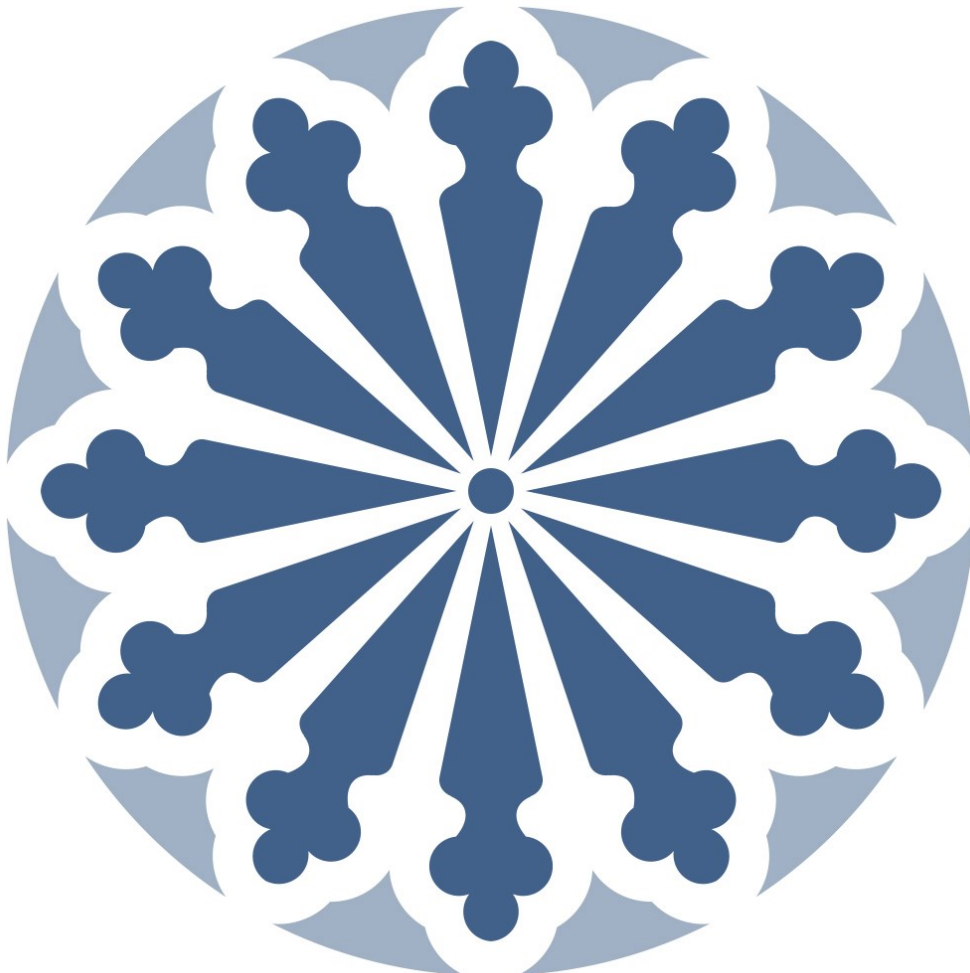
Lupe Garcia
Telephone: 772-494-9837, ggarcia@sthelenvero.org

St. Helen Catholic School Principal

Debbie Irish
2025 20th Avenue
Telephone: 772-567-5457, principal@sthelenschoolvero.org

Hispanic Ministries

Gloria Rivera, grivera@sthelenvero.org
Deborah Morales, dmorales@sthelenvero.org
2085 Tallahassee Ave.
Telephone: 772-778-3506



St. Helen
Patroness of Our Parish
Feast Day: August 18

St. Helen was the mother of St. Constantine the Great and was born at Drepanum in Asia Minor to parents of humble means. She married Constantius Chiorus, and their son Constantine was born in 274. Constantius divorced her in 294 in order to further his political ambitions by marrying a woman of noble rank.

Helen was abandoned and left to live in exile; she suffered alone for many years. In 306, Constantius died and Constantine became Emperor. Constantine declared Helen an Empress and titled her Augusta. She used her high position and wealth in the service of her religious enthusiasm and helped build churches throughout the empire. She was noted for her selflessness and generosity. Helen gave tirelessly to the church, prisoners, and the poor. In 324, Constantine had a great desire to find the True Cross, so at the age of 80, Helen led a group to the Holy Land to search for the Cross. She learned that the Cross was believed to be buried at the Temple of Venus. She ordered the pagan temple demolished and in the process, the tomb of Jesus was uncovered, as well as three crosses close at hand. In order to determine the cross on which the Savior had been crucified, she took the crosses to a woman afflicted with an incurable disease and had her touch each one. One of them immediately cured her and it was pronounced the True Cross.

While in Jerusalem, St. Helen performed a variety of good works, including giving money to the poor. She also ordered that all places connected with the life of the Lord and His Mother be free of all traces of paganism and directed that churches be built at each of these places. She gave the Cross to the Patriarch of Jerusalem for safe-keeping and took part of the wood and nails back to Constantinople.

St. Helen continued her journey to the holy places, building over eighty churches; at Bethlehem, the birth place of Christ, on the Mount of Olives, and at Gethsemane where the Lord prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried. Emperor Constantine gave orders to build a church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, but St. Helen did not survive to see the dedication of this temple. She died in 327. The church was completed in 335.

In art, St. Helen is shown holding the Cross as you can see from many statues and pictures that we display of our parish patroness.



St. Helen Parish History



ORIGINAL PARISHNERS

St. Helen was the first Catholic Church established in Indian River County. Missionary Reverend Rupert Gabriel of the Order of St. Benedict celebrated the first Mass in June of 1919 at the home of Anne and Louis Schlitt. Approximately twenty children and adults attended.

A wood frame church was completed in December of 1919. Father Gabriel celebrated Mass every Sunday until poor health forced him to retire in 1926. This original church is now located just north of the Christian Living Center and currently serves as the school library.

In 1926, Reverend Michael Beerhalter, from Fort Pierce, succeeded Father Gabriel, ministering to the needs of parishioners. Father Beerhalter also tended to the needs of the parishioners of St. Anastasia in Fort

Pierce. The first resident pastor, Reverend Michael Mullally, was assigned in October 1929. Recognizing the need for a Catholic grammar school in Indian River County, he established St. Helen Catholic School. Three religious Sisters of St. Dominic of Adrian, Michigan, Sister Immaculata, O.P., Sister Anselm, O.P., and Sister William Ann, O.P., arrived in Vero Beach and the school opened on September 16, 1940, with an enrollment of 27 students. The original schoolhouse was located behind the church approximately where the Christian Living Center is located today.

Reverend Patrick O'Brien was assigned as pastor of St. Helen in 1950. Father O'Brien built a new rectory including parish offices and began construction on our present church. Religious Instruction for children not attending St. Helen School was begun and numerous fund-raising events were held to cover the cost of the \$250,000 church.

Father John F. McKeown oversaw the final phase of construction on the new church in 1954, when he assumed the role of Pastor. The stained glass windows, the pink marble, the Italian statues and many interior accents and pieces still found today were added at this time. The church was dedicated on March 6, 1955. The original church was converted into a Parish Hall. A new four room classroom building and convent were also constructed. The mission of St. William in Sebastian was established by Father McKeown.

Reverend Hugh J. Flynn served as pastor of St. Helen from 1964 to 1969. Under his administration, a weekly Bingo Night was established and the St. Helen Harvest Festival was created to instill a sense of community in the hearts of the parishioners. The festival opened on November 19, 1965 on the grounds of St. Helen and raised \$13,008, more than what was needed to pay for the \$12,000 air conditioning system in the church. The St. Helen Service Center, a multi-purpose facility, was constructed in Gifford and opened in 1967 to serve the underprivileged.



Reverend John B. O'Hare became the pastor of St. Helen in 1969. Under his direction the present Parish Center was built and opened in 1975. The statue of St. Helen was erected as a tribute to our first pastor in 1975.

Monsignor Irvine Nugent became pastor in 1976. Under his guidance, the Neighborhood Apostolate was created in 1977 to welcome and care for parishioners on a more intimate basis. Numerous ministries and programs were created focusing on faith enrichment, worship, service, and continuing Christian development. The expanding needs of the church community were addressed with the remodeling of the former convent building into the Christian Living Center. The Outreach Office was created as an extension of the Neighborhood Apostolate to expand parish life and serve the needy. A ministry program for the sick was also developed. St. Helen Parish became part of the Diocese of Palm Beach in October 1984. Monsignor Nugent passed away in April of 2014.

Father Michael W. Edwards became our seventh pastor in 1999. Under Father Edwards' direction, St. Helen Parish has dedicated itself to being a Stewardship Community. Father Edwards challenged the parish to live a life of discipleship and accept God's calling to be a community of faith focused on using individual time, talents, and treasures to help promote God's Kingdom.

In July of 2016, Father Kevin C. Nelson became the eighth pastor of St. Helen Parish following the retirement of Fr. Michael Edwards. Fr. Nelson spearheaded phase one of the renovation of the church which was completed in time for our Centennial celebration. A time capsule was buried near the St. Helen pavilion in honor of the 100 year celebration. In 2021 a Centennial yearbook was published to commemorate the history of St. Helen Church. Fr. Nelson also oversaw the complete renovation of the chapel.

In July of 2021 Father Matthew DeGance was appointed as the administrator to St. Helen Parish following Fr. Nelson's transfer.





PROMISE to Protect

Pledge to HEAL



The Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Safe Environments is a Resource for Those in the Community

The Diocese of Palm Beach is committed to the safety and protection of minors and vulnerable adults in its care.

Visit www.diocesepb.org/safe-environments for information on policy and procedures, education, background screening, real life and online safety resources, parenting tips, and helpful websites. The Diocese has implemented numerous procedures to minimize risk, build barriers, and continue to foster a culture of safe environment.



1.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

All volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults are required to be fingerprinted for background screening conducted through the Diocese of Palm Beach. Volunteers will also need to be certified in the "Protecting God's Children" online video training. Contact the Parish Office at 772-567-5129 for information on volunteering.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving is the opportunity to provide financial support to the parish through means other than the ongoing offertory collections. Donations can be made in line with an individual's will, through an annuity, through Estate Planning, and through other means. Gifts can be designated for a specific purpose within the parish and/or in honor of a loved one.

Through Planned Giving you can assure both the long-term health of the parish's charitable and educational missions and the fulfillment of your personal financial objectives.

There are several ways to give:

- ♦ Gifts of Real Estate
- ♦ Gifts of Stocks and Bonds
- ♦ Charitable Lead Trust
- ♦ Charitable Gift Annuity
- ♦ Charitable Retirement Trust
- ♦ Retirement Assets

It is important to consult your financial planner or attorney or seek out a competent Estate Planning Attorney to assure your beneficiary designations will work in the desired method you have chosen.

Faith Direct

Faith Direct enables parishioners to make contributions to weekly offertory and special collections through either direct debit from a checking/savings account or through a credit/debit card. Faith Direct also offers personalized offertory cards to replace your envelopes for the collection basket. Please visit the Faith Direct website **www.faithdirect.net** to enroll securely online. Our parish code is **FL683**.

Parishioners are encouraged to use this safe, secure means of supporting the parish, which also provides for increased efficiency in our office operations.



SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

The Baptism of your child is truly something to celebrate! We are so excited to welcome your child into the faith at St. Helen Catholic Church. Through Baptism, we receive new life in Jesus Christ and begin our journey as Christians. For Catholics, the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. Baptism is the Church's way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God. Please contact the Religious Education Office at 772-562-5954 for further information and to schedule your child's Baptism.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to this important time in your family's life with Jesus Christ and His Church. This preparation time for First Reconciliation marks another important step in your child's formation in the Catholic Faith. It is our hope that your child will experience the forgiveness and healing of our loving God through this Sacrament many times. Classes are held in the fall of each year at St. Helen. This two year program, beginning in 1st grade, will ready your child to receive his or her sacrament in the spring of 2nd grade. Call the Religious Education office (562-5954) for further information and to register your child. If your child is above 2nd grade level and has not yet celebrated Baptism and/or First Reconciliation or First Holy Communion, we have a special class for him or her. The sacramental life of your child is very important to us as a Church community, and we know it is important to you, too.

The Parish of St. Helen is your partner in this preparation and is committed to supporting you in your responsibility as Catholic parents.

CONFIRMATION

We utilize several approaches towards preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. A Catholic bible and a catechism are used at each class. *Chosen: This is your Catholic Faith*, along with *Theology of the Body for Teens*, and the *Sacrament of Confirmation Midwest Theological Forum* are also used. Regular adoration and confession is scheduled. Class discussions, unit tests, and weekly Mass attendance are part of the curriculum. The program is developed with the intention to not only prepare students in 8th & 9th grade to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation but also to teach and inspire them to respond to and cooperate with God's grace in all the circumstances of their daily lives, long after their Confirmation has passed. Under the guidelines of the Diocese of Palm Beach, Confirmation is a two-year program beginning in 8th grade.

MARRIAGE

Couples contemplating marriage should contact our parish office as soon as they decide to marry, and speak with a priest or deacon to begin their preparation and schedule the wedding date. Couples should plan to begin the necessary paperwork with a priest or deacon at least six months prior to the planned wedding date.

HOLY ORDERS

As a congregation, we fervently pray for an increase in religious vocations. If you are interested in learning more about the priesthood, diaconate, sisterhood, or other vocation of religious life, please call the Parish Office (772-567-5129) and schedule an appointment with one of our priests. For additional information contact Fr. Daniel Daza-Jaller, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Palm Beach, 561-775-9552.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick confers grace to assist people who are sick, in order to ease their suffering, to pray for healing, both spiritual and physical, and to allow the ministry of the Church to assist them in their suffering. All individuals facing serious illness, surgery, or decline in health or strength are welcome to call the Parish Office for this Sacrament, 772-567-5129.

Monthly Anointing of the Sick is scheduled for the first Saturday of each month after the 8:40 a.m. Mass.

ST. HELEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“Making Good Things Happen” Since 1940

St. Helen Catholic School is proud to be one of the largest ministries of St. Helen Parish. We are a coeducational elementary and middle school serving students in Kindergarten through Eighth grade. Our student body consists of approximately 280 eager learners. A highlight of our curriculum is our 1:1 iPad® program. Every student in the school is assigned his or her own iPad. We also offer Spanish from Kindergarten through Eighth with a high school level option in eighth grade. Our sports program includes soccer, volleyball, basketball, cross country, cheerleading, flag football, girls lacrosse, and track. Additionally, we host more than fifteen clubs and extra-curricular activities including National Junior Honor Society. We are proud that year after year more than thirty students in grades Four through Eight are altar servers for the church.

Mission

The mission of St. Helen Catholic School is to provide a quality Catholic education that incorporates faith, academics, service, and leadership. Students are encouraged to be confident and productive learners who are “making good things happen.”

Vision

Building on core strengths (faith development, reading, writing, and mathematics), the St. Helen Catholic School community will forge a new and powerful model of education with an emphasis on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration with a focus on STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art & math) education. A St. Helen Catholic School student will be inspired to reach his or her highest potential.

Educational Philosophy

St. Helen Catholic School is dedicated to the education of the whole child as a Catholic global citizen. With the support of home, church, and community, St. Helen is committed to providing an exemplary education that is academically challenging and empowers students to reach their full potential spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially.



Profile of a Graduate of St. Helen Catholic School

Graduates of St. Helen Catholic School will strive to become models of their faith, to excel academically, to serve the community, and to lead with exemplary character.

In FAITH they will:

*Model Catholic Christian values
Share the teachings of Jesus Christ*

In ACADEMICS they will:

*Be well-prepared for high school
Think creatively and independently*

In SERVICE they will:

*Contribute to the well-being of others
Place the needs of others before self*

In LEADERSHIP they will:

*Exhibit integrity, honesty, and confidence
Lead by doing*



The work of St. Helen Catholic School is the work of our entire community. All successes have been and will continue to be the result of school families, parishioners, and the greater community working together to ensure that our school continues to offer a highly effective and rigorous academic program that is mission-driven and well-managed. We invite all parishioners to join us in this faith-centered academic endeavor. We thank you for your time, talent, and treasure. Every prayer, every minute, every skill, every dollar makes a difference and we are grateful for your support.

Dear St. Helen Parishioner:

It is such a blessing to be starting my fourth year as pastor of St. Helen Parish. I am looking forward to seeing all of our St. Helen families again and getting to know all of our new ones on a personal level. My goal remains the same: 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, John Carroll Catholic High School, and our Faith Formation programs. 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. Moving forward into the 2024 / 2025 school year, receiving the subsidized tuition rate at St. Helen Catholic School, St. Anastasia, or John Carroll High School is predicated on your adherence with this program. If you are a parishioner of St. Helen and request to have your parish affiliation form signed by me to receive the Catholic tuition subsidy, your Mass attendance must be at 80% or higher. If you are enrolled in one of our Faith Formation programs, you must also maintain Mass attendance of 80% or higher to receive your sacraments.

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 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 details of this program will be easy to follow. The Mass Participation Program is on the Church website: www.sthelenvero.org under Parish Events.

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Matthew DeGance / Pastor



EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION

How To Get Involved

BAPTISM SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Purpose: Welcome and assist parents requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for their child. Instruct parents and godparents in a deeper understanding of their responsibility for the faith formation of the child and to the Church.

Baptisms are scheduled individually through the Director of Religious Education. To receive paperwork, schedule a Baptism and Baptism meeting, or ask any questions please contact: Paige Fies, Director of Religious Education, 772-562-5954, pfies@sthelenvero.org

CONFIRMATION SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Purpose: A two-year program beginning with students in eighth grade. The Sacrament of Confirmation takes place typically in the spring of ninth grade. The purpose of this preparation is to assist young men and women to come into a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in their lives, and in the life of our Church, and how they can interact with the Holy Spirit to lead a life which will draw them into a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus.

Responsibilities: Classroom instruction, retreat day, service projects, and assistance with meetings, depending on year of program.

Time Commitment: Depends on level of involvement and year.

Contact: Paige Fies, Dir. of Religious Education, 772-562-5954.

FAITH FORMATION / CCD

Second Grade Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Purpose: Assist parents and their second grade child to build upon the skills introduced in their first grade classes and enter a year of greater spiritual growth as they prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and their First Holy Communion.

Responsibilities: Instruct children, Catechist Certification (training provided), Diocesan *Protecting God's Children* Certification.

Time Commitment: Two hours per week on Sunday mornings 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., September - November and January - April. Additional time for rehearsals.

Contact: Paige Fies, Director of Religious Education, 772-562-5954, pfies@sthelenvero.org

FAITH FORMATION / CCD

Non-Sacramental Grades

Purpose: Assist parents in the task of instructing their children in the beliefs, values, and practices of the Catholic faith. Teach children the importance of being a follower of Jesus along with the key concepts of God, the Commandments, the Sacraments, the Works of Mercy, the Blessed Mother, the Saints, Catholic prayers and the Church in a manner appropriate to their level of understanding.

Responsibilities: Instruct children, Catechist Certification (training provided), Diocesan *Protecting God's Children* Certification.

Time Commitment: Two hours per week on Sunday mornings 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., September - November and January - April.

Contact: Paige Fies, Director of Religious Education, 772-562-5954, pfies@sthelenvero.org

DIOCESAN SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Purpose: Our Palm Beach Diocese offers a series of studies for adult Catholics to more deeply experience the power and beauty of our faith. Topics include Liturgy, Sacraments, History, Ministry, Vatican II, Ecclesiology, and others. You will learn how our culture is being de-Christianized, and how you can be a faithful Catholic and better understand why the Church teaches certain things so that you can truly grow in your love of Jesus and His bride the Church.

Responsibilities: Interest in learning and experiencing the Catholic Faith more deeply and wisely. *If interested in assisting with instruction, we would be glad to review your qualifications.*

Time Commitment: Each year four subjects will be studied, two in the fall and two in the spring. Classes consist of 12 hours of instruction. The complete program is 12 subject areas completed over the course of 3 years.

Contact: Carolyn Dean, 772-567-0682 jcdean1010@earthlink.net

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASS

Purpose: The Marriage Preparation Class allows couples contemplating marriage an opportunity, in a relaxed atmosphere, to reflect on individual personalities in response to topics such as the Sacrament of Matrimony, communication, finances, spirituality, intimacy, and dreams and goals.

Responsibilities: A desire to help young couples develop a strong Christian foundation for marriage through personal presentations and lecture.

Time Commitment: Two times per year on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Contact: Paul and Patti Burgener, 912-660-6663, marriageandfamily@sthelenvero.org, or the Parish office 772-567-5129



RITE OF INITIATION OF CHILDREN / RCIC

Purpose: This class is designed for the child above second grade level who has not yet received Sacraments: Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist. In addition to his or her Sacramental preparation, the student is given a foundational catechesis that will assist parents in the task of instructing their children in the beliefs, values, and practices of the Catholic faith. Children are taught the importance of being a follower of Jesus along with the key concepts of God, the Commandments, the Sacraments, the Works of Mercy, the Blessed Mother, the Saints, Catholic prayers, and the Church, in a manner appropriate to their level of understanding.

Responsibilities: Instruct children, Catechist Certification (training provided), Diocesan *Protecting God's Children Certification*.

Time Commitment: Two hours per week on Sunday mornings 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., September to April. Additional time for in-church rehearsals for receiving the sacraments.

Contact: Paige Fies, Director of Religious Education, 772-562-5954, pfies@sthelenvero.org

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS / RCIA

Purpose: RCIA focuses on Christian initiation of adults through the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Sessions focus on the teachings of the Church and prepare individuals for the Catholic way of life.

Responsibilities: The RCIA team member displays the gift of hospitality and a welcoming spirit while sharing his or her love of the Catholic faith and Church. A group facilitator will share his or her faith and knowledge of the Catholic Church. An RCIA sponsor and prayer partner will “journey” with the catechumens (those not yet baptized) and candidates. Retreat team members will plan and execute a one day retreat at the culmination of our year.

Time Commitment: Ninety minutes weekly. For English: meet at the 10:30 a.m. Mass and class will begin after Mass. For Spanish: class is at 10:00 a.m. with Spanish Mass to follow. All classes are September through mid December, then January through April. A printed schedule will be available through the Religious Education Office.

Contact: Paige Fies, Director of Religious Education, 772-562-5954, pfies@sthelenvero.org.

DON BOSCO SUMMER CAMP

Purpose: Summer camp experience that includes a spirit of faith, family, and fun for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years. We are proud to offer an experience, named after the patron saint of young people, St. John Bosco, where kids can feel welcomed, make friends, and grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith. Don Bosco knew that the most valuable and vulnerable portion of society is its young people. It is our goal to provide a safe environment which will include activities such as sports, dancing, arts and crafts, board games, field trips, swimming, faith formation, Mass, Confession, adoration, Rosary, and much more.

Responsibility: Volunteers/assistants will need to have a love for God, the Catholic Faith and the young, and working with kids in a manner that is creative, collaborative, enthusiastic, and able to evangelize children in the faith. Training and background screening required and provided. See page 13 for “*Protecting God’s Children*” certification.

Contact: Lupe Alcala-Garcia, Youth Ministry Coordinator, 772-494-9837, ggarcia@sthelenvero.org



LITURGICAL & WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS

Purpose: Train boys and girls third grade and older to assist the priest at Mass and other religious services.

Responsibilities: Dependability, assistance to priests at Mass, reverence in performing duties, respect for people around you.

Time Commitment: Weekend Mass approximately every third week. St. Helen students serve weekday Masses during the school year. Servers attending other schools serve weekday Masses during the summer. New server training is scheduled in the fall.

Contacts: Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Frank D'Amato, 772-567-5129

Training & Schedule, Will Heady, 772-567-5129, wheady@sthelenvero.org



ALTAR SOCIETY

Purpose: Care for and attend to the altar, sanctuary and sacristy areas.

Responsibilities: Work on teams and care for altar, flowers, linens, sanctuary, and sacristy; seasonal decoration.

Time Commitment: Monthly schedule. Saturdays after the 8:40 a.m. Mass for about 1 hour.

Contact: Karen Egan, 772-567-5660, Karen_Egan@att.net or Becky Jones, 772-766-0244, atthebeachjones@gmail.com

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS

Purpose: Jesus calls us to be one with Him through the Eucharist. By participating in this sacred ministry, we are called to assist our priests and deacons through our devotion to Jesus, and believing that He is fully present in the Eucharist

Responsibilities: Distribute the Eucharist at our liturgies.

Time Commitment: Serving on teams for daily and Sunday Masses. Training is provided 1-2 times each year.

Contact: Sandra Lackas, 772-532-5230 slackas@bellsouth.net

LECTORS

Purpose: Lectors assist with the proclamation of the Word of God. These ministers are called to proclaim the readings clearly and effectively to the assembly.

Qualifications: A participant in the Ministry of the Lectors should have the following qualifications:

- Is an initiated and practicing member of the Catholic Church.
- Regularly attends Mass.
- Fully embraces the words and prayers that are offered in Mass.
- Gives positive witness to the Christian life.
- Possesses full knowledge of the Order of the Mass.
- Has the capability to proclaim Sacred Scripture at Mass.
- Is willing to prepare for the readings through prayer, study, and practice.
- Has participated in a Lector training program.

Time Commitment: Serve on a lector team and be assigned to a particular Mass, be available to assist on Holy Days, or to serve as a substitute when called upon.

Contact: Steve Boehning (772) 473-4099, steve@coastalwde.com

MUSIC MINISTRY

Purpose: St. Helen Music Ministry provides beauty, joy, comfort, and inspiration for our liturgies and festive celebrations through the musical gifts, generosity, and commitment of its members.

Responsibilities: Participate in rehearsals and provide music for various liturgical celebrations.

Contact: Tom Schuster, 772-567-5129, tschuster@sthelenvero.org

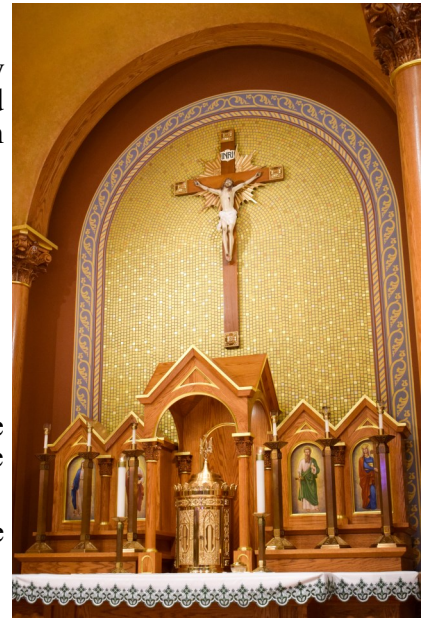
USHERS

Purpose: Dedication, friendliness and willingness to help others and serve the Lord.

Responsibilities: Welcome, show comfort, assist and serve the priest and those attending Mass.

Time Commitment: Assigned to a specific Mass.

Contact: Art Noriega, 772-473-1433
ArthurNoriega@icloud.com.



SPIRITUAL LIFE & PRAYER

COME & SEE BIBLE STUDY

Great news! Begin at the Beginning! This year, Saint Helen's will host our Bible Study: "**Genesis**" in English and in Spanish. Saint Helen's Bible Studies enable men, women, and children to study Sacred Scripture, using "**Come and See ~ Catholic Bible Study**" books, the Bible, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Responsibilities: Pray to the Holy Spirit, watch a 25 minute video presentation, and then share your answers to some of the home study questions in a small group discussion. Books are available for \$25 and scholarships are available. No one is turned away. Everyone is welcome. No previous experience is necessary.

Time Commitment: Each weekly session, from September to April, is about an hour. Participants also spend some time at home, praying, studying, and preparing for next week's lesson.

Women meet on Thursday mornings from 9:15 until 10:30 am in the Christian Living Center. Home-schooled children could study "**Come and See KIDS: In The Beginning**" with their mothers. **Contact:** Laura McGarry, 492-7172, mcgarryl@bellsouth.net

Men, women, and young adults are invited to the Thursday evening study in the Parish Hall 7:00 - 8:15 pm. Books are available in Spanish and in English. **Contact:** Laurie Manhardt laurie8150@aol.com 321-4034, John McHugh, or Will Heady 321-2812. Spanish-speakers can contact Gloria Rivera 772-778-3506, or Jorge Trujilio 321-7705.

Men's Morning Bible Study meets Thursday mornings from 6:45 to 7:45 am in the Christian Living Center. **Contact:** Jim Manhardt, 321-3886, jmanhardt530@gmail.com



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Purpose: To encourage people to look into and embrace a deeper faith and a lively commitment to living with joy and confidence as a fruit of having experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit awakens graces received in Sacramental Baptism and Confirmation, and brings with it a love of Holy Scripture and prayer, a dynamic desire to cooperate fully with God's will, and heart of service. The result is that one desires and enjoys praising the Lord in song and glorifying Him in service to others.

Volunteer Opportunities: Openness to the Holy Spirit! All gifts are welcome: willingness to pray for others, musical ability, hospitality (welcome people and serve refreshments), planning for worship, offering short teachings, preparing written cards for mailing, maintaining database, setting up and taking down chairs, tables and sound equipment each week.

Time Commitment: Two hours per week for members, more for musicians (rehearsals, set up and break down). Meets year-round. On the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Thursday of the month meetings are either in the Church or the Parish Center from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. On the 3rd Thursday of the month there is a Charismatic Mass in the Church, with Praise and Worship prior to Mass, and healing prayer afterwards.

Contact: Carolyn Dean, 772-567-0682 sthelenprayergroup@earthlink.net
Eleanor DiMauro, 772-562-3564, deaconjjdm@gmail.com

MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

Purpose: To further develop the spiritual lives of the men of St. Helen through a deepening of their personal relationship with Jesus, formation of relationships with one another, and training in discipleship. There are three groups which meet, each offering a slightly different opportunity for spiritual development, based on our call to know, love and serve our Lord by knowing, loving and serving one another. Each of the groups is described briefly below.

Why Join Us? Desire for spiritual fellowship, growth, and development.

Time Commitment: One (plus) hours per week and commitment to work on spiritual life.

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. *Small group discussion on scripture and Church writings.*

Contact: Mike Alderman, 772-359-6020, mike.alderman@outlook.com

Wednesday 6:15 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.. *Meeting includes DVD presentation and small group discussion.*

Contact: Randy Brennan, 713-6436, hbr@veroattorneys.com

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER DIVINE MERCY FRATERNITY

Purpose: The Secular Franciscan Order is an official Order within the Catholic Church, established by St. Francis of Assisi himself, early in the thirteenth century. Divine Mercy Fraternity is the local Fraternity, one of many Fraternities world-wide. To become members, the applicants (men, women, single or married) must discern a Vocation and be devout Catholics.

Responsibilities: Ordinarily, we do not live in community; rather we live with our families and perform our jobs out in the world, gathering in fraternities on a regular basis. By profession we promise to follow a Rule of Life approved and confirmed by Pope Paul VI. For more information visit www.dmfocs2.com.

Time Commitment: 2-3 hours per month. Meetings are the second Sunday of each month from 2:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Contact: Joanne Giordano, 772-332-0576, jnursefl@gmail.com

Fred Schaeffer, OFS, Formation Director, 772-410-6237, fredsfo2@gmail.com

UNBOUND PRAYER MINISTRY

Purpose: The Unbound Prayer Ministry is a ministry of healing in which a trained prayer team (usually 2 team members) prays with individuals to assist them in overcoming the spiritual obstacles they encounter. The Unbound Prayer has been used for the last 50 years as a means of helping individuals release certain effects or habits in their lives that do not serve to bring them peace, joy and a closer relationship with Christ. Developed as a Catholic lay ministry, in addition to being actively used in the Palm Beach Diocese, it is available in Dioceses throughout the United States, internationally and in many other denominations.

We are helpless to flee from sin on our own. Unbound helps us to move beyond habitual sin, marital/family discourse, inability to forgive, relationship struggles, persistently negative views of God or self, chronic fear, anxiety or sadness and stalled spiritual life.

Responsibilities: Those seeking prayer are provided with information regarding the prayer format and structure and are asked to review this information prior to their scheduled prayer session.

Time Commitment: Prayer for individuals is by appointment but most regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month. Prayer sessions are scheduled to last one hour.

Contact: Deacon Dave Hankle, 772-567-5129-Church office, dhankle@sthelenvero.org

WALK WITH JESUS

Purpose: Members meet weekly each Saturday at 8 a.m. for a fun spiritual exercise. We walk Veteran's Island and the Riverside Park Trail. During our walk. we stop for a few minutes and listen to Catholic Daily Reflections.

Responsibilities: We walk approximately 3.5 miles total.

Time Commitment: Our walk takes us approximately an hour and fifteen minutes. There is no commitment; come when you can.

Contact: Pat DiGeorge, 770-605-5725, pdigeorge@gmail.com

WELCOME CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH / CRHP

Purpose: WELCOME Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) is a spiritual renewal process which calls together the members of the parish – clergy and laity – in order to experience personal conversation and Christian community in the environment of our own parish. In the context of personal rebirth and parish revitalization, it is evangelization, catechesis, spiritual information, sharing, lay ministry, and Christian community- building. CRHP is centered around retreats given BY men and women of the parish FOR men and women of the parish.

Responsibilities: The only requirement to participate in a WELCOME Christ Renews His Parish weekend is to be a registered parishioner of St. Helen Church, with a desire for personal spiritual renewal.

Time Commitment: One Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon weekend renewal retreat.

Contact: Victoria Acker, 516-528-0590, vickiaa5106@gmail.com
(WELCOME CRHP Continuation Committee) crhp@sthelenvero.org

WOMEN TOGETHER IN FAITH

Purpose: Provides enrichment of daily life through a better understanding of Scripture.

Responsibilities: Prayer, review of assigned lesson and corresponding Biblical readings, followed by group discussions.

Time Commitment: Wednesday mornings after the 8:40 a.m. Mass for one hour (9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.). A minimum of an additional hour between classes is recommended to prepare for the next class.

Contact: Diane Hankle, 772-321-3911, ddtowski@gmail.com Virginia Gallo, 772-559-6936, virginiaallo@comcast.net



PARISH FAMILY LIFE

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN / CCW

Affiliation with the National Council of Catholic Women

Purpose: St. Helen CCW supports, educates, and empowers all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. Our programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world. St. Helen CCW is an affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women, the Florida CCW, and the Palm Beach Diocesan CCW.

Events & Activities: St. Helen CCW serves and supports our community in various ways throughout the year. We raise money and have fun doing it! Our fundraising events include Fall and Spring Card Parties, a Spring Fashion Show, and Chocolate Sunday. Our donations and fundraising funds have benefitted the Angel / Back to Basics Program, Samaritan Center for Homeless Families, A Caring Center for Women, St. Helen Fall Festival, St. Helen Catholic School (Adopt a Class and Scholarship Fund), Outreach, and St. Helen Don Bosco Summer Camp, just to name a few. We also meet annually with our legislators during Catholic Days at the Capitol.

Time Commitment: We promote a variety of programs and projects, enabling each member to lead or participate as little or as much as she chooses.

Meetings: St. Helen CCW meets the second Tuesday of the month from September through May at 9:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall (923 19th Place, Vero Beach). Please check the weekly bulletin for details.

Contact: Janet Fraley (President), 772-713-3248 E: StHelenCCW@outlook.com

GREETERS FOR MASS

Purpose: Welcome everyone with a smile and open the Church door for them.

Time Commitment: 15 minutes before the weekend Mass you regularly attend.

Contact: Edwin Rojas, 772-321-7447, gluke241335@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP COUNCIL 5629

Purpose: The Knights of Columbus is the oldest and largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world. We, heirs to that great legacy, are pledged to help each other, our parish, and the greater community. All Catholic men 18 and older are invited to join.

What We Do: We are committed to the mission of Christ here on earth in solidarity with our clergy and the Catholic Church. In addition to many family & youth-oriented activities, we offer spiritual & fraternal programs to help members & parishioners lead more virtuous, faith-filled lives. Every year, we also donate thousands of dollars to charity. Our many fundraisers will provide you wonderful opportunities to meet like-minded men and become more deeply involved in parish life. We also meet at Msgr. Irvine Nugent Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to May to conduct business and for food/drink & camaraderie - and we'd love you to be with us!

Contacts: Bill Wetzel, 321-615-7684, wetz@reagan.com, Michael Glatz, 772-538-1811, chefmichael@coffeehouse1420.com



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, FOURTH DEGREE FATHER CHARLES D. BRADY ASSEMBLY

Purpose: This Assembly is composed of 4th Degree Knights from St. Helen and Holy Cross Churches. We promote patriotism and dedication to our nation's ideals and we share with all Knights the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Membership is open to all 3rd Degree Knights in good standing.

Responsibilities: Our members promise to uphold those whose duty it is to administer the law; to defend the flag of our country and the principles for which it stands, to maintain unity, and to practice the virtues of charity and brotherly love. We also encourage these ideals within the parish, school, and local community and we donate money to worthy organizations. Our Color Corps performs ceremonial duties at church events and at funerals for deceased Knights.

Time Commitment: We gather for a brief business meeting on the last Thursday of each month at 11:45 a.m. at Msgr. Nugent Hall. This is followed by lunch and a social hour. We work closely with various veteran organizations in IRC, while additional time is given to support fundraisers and special events as needed.

Contact: Ron Hunkapiller, Faithful Navigator, 914-536-0248, rhunk49@gmail.com

LADYBUG BOUTIQUE

Purpose: Members meet as a craft group to make items to sell in support of St. Helen School.

Skills: Sewing, painting, knitting, quilting, or whatever craft you love doing.

Time Commitment: Ladybugs meet year round (except in December) on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Cottage. We host a booth at the Harvest Festival and have sales throughout the year. There is no mandatory commitment, come when you want, or work on projects at home.

Contact: Karen Egan, 772-567-5660, Karen_Egan@att.net Phyllis Gardiner, 772-643-6676, phyllisgardiner@bellsouth.net

MARRIAGE, FAMILY & RELATIONSHIP MINISTRY

Purpose: To support family life by offering educational, enrichment, and support for marriages and families directly through parish-based programs and opportunities offered through the Diocese of Palm Beach, and relationship skills training for married and single individuals through fun and engaging events in large and small group settings.

Responsibilities: Volunteer

Time Commitment: Ability to work on various programs throughout the year with others. Commitment can be limited based upon availability. Couples and singles are welcome.

Contact: Paul and Patti Burgener, 912-660-6663, marriageandfamily@sthelenvero.org

MOM'S GROUP - DAUGHTERS OF MARY

Purpose: To strengthen the domestic church, by providing Catholic women with a strong support system of Catholic mothers who share a drive to raise their family according to Sacred Scripture, Apostolic Tradition, and the Church's Magisterial teaching.

Responsibilities: We will discuss topics such as growth in the interior life, devotions and feast days, and liturgical living in the home. We will join in fellowship for prayer, group adoration, and confession. Playdates for moms and their kids will be available.

Time commitment: Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Lauryn Hamelin, 772-643-0534, sthelenmomsgroup@gmail.com



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Purpose: We welcome young adults, ages 18-39, Catholic or curious, who are seeking authentic community, real conversations, shared adventures, and encouragement through the journey of being a Christ-follower in today's world.

Events & Activities: Join other young adults from around the diocese for various fellowship, service, and spiritual formation opportunities. We often meet for meals and activities in the local community. We also help to organize trips to larger events and retreats. There is the opportunity to join our youth ministry team and serve as a "big brother or sister" to the teens in middle and high school. To learn more and get involved,

<https://linktr.ee/sthelenya>

Time Commitment: We host a weekly Bible study and aim for at least one large social event a month.

Contact: Lupe Alcala, 561-452-6176, ggarcia@sthelenvero.org



YOUTH MINISTRY

Purpose: Our parish youth ministry is inspired by Gospel values as proclaimed by Jesus Christ and taught to us in the Catholic Church. We are proud to offer an experience to young people, inspired by the patron saint of the youth St. John Bosco, where kids can feel welcomed, make friends, grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith, and develop their understanding of life and the role they have in it as responsible individuals. Our two-part goal is quite simple: to be good Catholics and honest citizens.

Events and Activities: Regular youth nights featuring games, projects, and faith formation. There are also opportunities for small group discussion, Bible study, field trips, service opportunities, and retreats.

Time Commitment: Middle school and high-school students are invited to join us Wednesdays and Sundays. Wednesday: open gym night in the parish hall from 6-8pm. Sunday: gather at the 5pm Sunday Mass followed by youth activities in the parish hall till 8pm.

Facebook: [St.HelenYouthMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/St.HelenYouthMinistry)

Instagram: [shvbyouth](https://www.instagram.com/shvbyouth)

Group Me texting group - ask to join!

Responsibilities:

Adult and young adult volunteers are needed for a variety of different roles and time commitments (mentoring, event set up, etc.). Please contact us to discuss how your time and talents may be used to glorify God through the youth ministry.

Contact: Lupe Garcia, 772-494-9837, ggarcia@sthelenvero.org

SERVICE & STEWARDSHIP

CATHOLIC CHARITIES - DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH

Purpose: Catholic Charities of the five-county Diocese of Palm Beach respects life in all its stages. In living our faith, we offer hope for people in need without regard to religion. Through our programs and ministries, we empower individuals, deliver social services, and collaborate with others in building just and compassionate communities. 561-775-9560.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We provide scholarships to families of St. Helen who desire to send their children to a Catholic High School. Families must apply through FACTS and be active, participating members of St. Helen parish.

Contact: Kathlenia Carter, 772-567-5457.

CONSOLATION - When a Loved One Dies

As a community of faith, we share in the sorrow of the loss of your loved one. The parish staff is here to help you through this difficult time regarding arrangements with the Church.

Once you have selected a funeral home, the funeral home will call the church office to arrange for a date and time for the Funeral Mass, Memorial Mass, Funeral Home Service, or Graveside Service. This date and time must be established prior to any other arrangements with the church to ensure that a priest or deacon is available. All arrangements are made through the parish office.

If you are not utilizing the services of a funeral home and are working directly with a crematory, you will need to call the parish office to set the date and time for the Funeral Mass, Graveside Service or Prayer Service. Parish Office 772-567-5129

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION OUTREACH

Homebound, Nursing Home, and Hospital

Purpose: Reaching out to parishioners with compassion, kindness, and love of the Eucharist.

Responsibilities: Distribution of the Holy Eucharist to parishioners who are confined to their homes, residents of a nursing home or assisted living facility, or patients in the hospital. You choose which areas to serve.

Time Commitment: As desired. Training, commissioning, and background screening provided.

Contact: Cheryle Mackie, 772-643-5966, cheryle22@icloud.com

FALL FESTIVAL

Purpose: To offer an annual fun-filled festival for the whole community to enjoy, while providing an opportunity for the entire parish family to create an occasion of fantastic fun, fabulous food, and fellowship.

Responsibilities: Setup and takedown volunteers, electricians, game booth and concession workers, food preparers, ticket sellers, bakers, crafters, festival ground runners, photographers, graphic designers, and marketing specialists.

Time Commitment:

We invite all parishioners to assist in making this year's festival the best yet. Volunteers are needed before, during and after the actual event, which takes place on the St. Helen campus Friday, November 8th and Saturday, November 9th, 2024.

Contact: Church@sthelenvero.org, 772-567-5129



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Purpose: Fulfill a diocesan requirement concerning the accounting and financial reporting of St. Helen Parish.

- ♦ *Review and monitor financial operations.*
- ♦ *Review accounting function, internal controls; monitor the parish's profit and loss statement, balance sheet and capital expenditures.*
- ♦ *Assist in preparation of an annual budget, including capital needs.*
- ♦ *Report to the parish, on no less than an annual basis, the yearly budget and financial operation results.*

Responsibilities: Some understanding of financial statements, insight into operating suggestions, strong stewardship commitment.

Time Commitment: One meeting per quarter based on a mutually agreed upon date.

Contact: Stephanie Eidemueller, 772-567-5129, seidemueller@sthelenvero.org

GRIEF SUPPORT

Purpose: Grieving is not only about a death. Several times in all of our lives events occur that make us very sad or uncomfortable, and we think, "What am I going to do?" We ponder these events and ask, "why?" Only God knows the answer. The Grief Ministry is a group of individuals who have been in similar situations and support each other with thoughts and ideas. We don't ask probing questions, and there are no obligations. You can just sit and listen if you wish.

Responsibilities: Provide love and support for those grieving.

Time Commitment: One hour twice per month on the second and fourth Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. - noon.

Contact: Tina Franke, 772-569-4769 mamafranke13@gmail.com

Mike Kiefer, 772-492-9101, counselor4u@yahoo.com

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Purpose: A ministry that is supported by the love and generosity of St. Helen parishioners' donations, which allow us to assist those who are in financial need, while always demonstrating love and concern.

Location: 1031 18th Street, Suite F & G

Responsibilities: Willingness and commitment to assist those less fortunate, ability to move boxes, stock shelves, listen to and assist clients.

Time Commitment: Office hours are Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Contact: Paige Fies, 772-567-5193, outreach@sthelenvero.org

PARISH NURSE AND WELLNESS

Purpose: A parish-based health ministry which cares for the whole person, mind, body, and spirit, and arises from the needs of the parish. It is realized through the talents of a registered nurse, trained and certified by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Services include counseling, health education, health advocating, referrals, and spiritual care counseling.

Responsibilities: Must have health background: R.N, C.N.A, physical and respiratory therapist, grief counselors, to participate in home visits and scheduled educational programs.

Time Commitment: As needed.

Contact: Parish Office, 772-567-5129, church@sthelenvero.org

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

Purpose: To pray as we create handmade “Prayer Blankets” to be given to a person with a particular need. It may be during a time of stress, serious illness, medical treatment, bereavement, or at any time when comfort and prayer are needed. As each lap blanket is created, its maker is in prayer for the receiver of the blanket. Prayer blankets are available at the Parish Office. Although the blankets are not sold, a donation to our ministry is gratefully accepted to purchase materials to continue the “ripple effect” of unconditional love.

Responsibilities: Compassionate people who wish to provide a loving gift for someone who is hurting. Ability to trace, cut and / or assemble blankets while praying for the Lord’s love and mercy for the recipient of the blankets.

Time Commitment: Varies.

Contact: Jackie Hunter 772-567-4175, grandmajackiehu@comcast.net
Clare White, 772-567-7064, wgeorgeclara@bellsouth.net

PRISON MINISTRY

Purpose: To bring Christ to the inmates in Indian River County Jail through prayer and listening; to provide them with access to the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Responsibilities: Members must be committed to prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit while ministering in teams of two with individual inmates. Ministers must be Catholic. There is a mandatory training course and background investigation by the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office, as well as Parish training and clearance through the Diocese of Palm Beach.

Time Commitment: Visits may be scheduled pending county and state health regulations. Members rotate for an average of 1 visit per month. All members meet or communicate every 6 months to plan the visitation schedule for the following 6 months.

Contact: Jamie Cook, 913-876-9115, cooj57@gmail.com



RESPECT LIFE

Purpose: As the local chapter of the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Palm Beach, the goal of the ministry is to draw attention to the issues that threaten the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, through dedication to prayer, education and action.

Responsibilities: We strive to acquire and share the most current information regarding all aspects of life-threatening issues. Multiple events are sponsored annually, including a Rosary Prayer Service, and a community-wide ecumenical “Stand for Life.” We promote the national “40 Days for Life” campaigns twice per year. We conduct fund-raisers to support pregnancy care centers and agencies that support new mothers and their babies.

Time Commitment: We meet on the second Saturday of each month, 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., August through May at the Knights of Columbus Hall (923 19th Place). We support parish-wide activities and events.

Contact: Susan Baldwin, 848-459-7165 or 772-205-2120, susanbaldwin1009@gmail.com. or Cindy Saparito, 314-517-3146, cynjohns@sbcglobal.net



ROSARY MAKERS FOR PEACE

Purpose: Being faithful to Mary, the Mother of God, by creating rosaries for missions all over the world, for the school, hospitals, families, and all in need.

Responsibilities: Time and willingness to learn to tie knots and string the beads.

Time Commitment: One hour per week each Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. September through May.

Contact: Vicki Cook, 413-896-0755, coov58@gmail.com

SAMARITAN CENTER

Purpose: We offer transitional housing and guidance to homeless families in Indian River County and prepare them to live independently.

Contact: Renee Bireley, Development Manager, 772-770-3039, rbireley@ccdpb.org.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

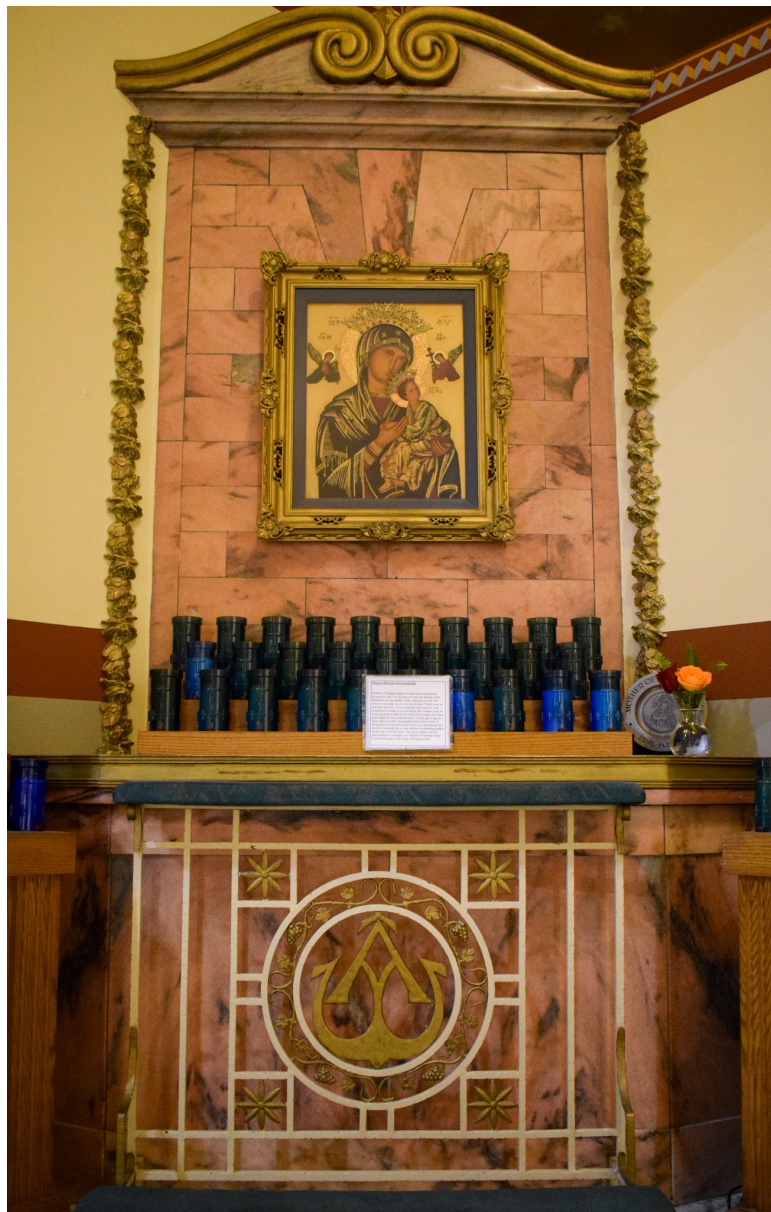
Purpose: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul helps people in our community by operating a thrift store. We have a total volunteer staff and the funds raised help people in our own community. We assist with utility bills, prescriptions, clothing and household items. We work closely with local agencies helping those in need.

Responsibilities: Volunteers help us help others by receiving donations, sorting, pricing, doing repairs, cashiering, maintenance and picking up donated items.

Time Commitment: A three hour shift per week, or more if your time permits. The location is 1745 14th Ave, Vero Beach. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. (Closed Tuesday and Thursday).

Contact: Janice Pilon, 772-567-6774, jpilon@svdpvero.org,

Visit us: www.svdpvero.org



COMMUNICATION MINISTRY

The new environment in which Christian faith formation will operate in the decades to come will demand new thinking and new models, practices, resources, and technologies to address the spiritual needs of all generations. It is through the Communication Ministry that the church of today will stay engaged in daily life and ministry.

APP - myParish App! Imagine being able to follow the daily readings, read the bulletin, have instant access to prayers, and know what is happening at the parish, all from your phone!

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Events, Locations, RSVP
- Readings**
Daily Readings from USCCB
- Prayers**
Set Reminders, Send Requests
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Text **APP** to phone number **55321**, or visit **myparishapp.com** to download

BULLETIN

Do you need an announcement to be printed in our Bulletin? Submit your announcements via e-mail to church@sthelenvero.org at least 14 days in advance of the Sunday publishing date, due by Wednesday. Around holidays the deadline may be sooner.

Announcements will not be taken over the phone. We reserve the right to edit and/or reformat your flyers and announcements. Please submit announcements and graphics in an editable format. Please do not send text that has been scanned, or pdf files. Items submitted from outside the parish will be run on a space available basis after approval by the Pastor.

PHOTOGRAPHY

We are always looking for great pictures to share in the bulletin and on social media. If you attend one of our events, please share! In July we start planning the photos for our Church calendar.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sthelenvero

We encourage you to follow us on Facebook. We have a very active page featuring daily posts. Ministries are invited to submit their events or general news for our Facebook page

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sthelenvero

Follow us and like our stuff!

Vimeo Channel: www.vimeo.com/user109863429

Subscribe to our channel and enjoy live streams and videos featuring our parish events and ministries.

VIDEO WALL

We record video announcements which are shown prior to each weekend Mass. If your ministry or group has a special event, please contact the parish office if you would like to have a representative from your ministry record the announcements for a specific weekend. We also accept short videos (4 minutes or less) to show during the announcements.

WEBSITE

www.sthelenvero.org

St. Helen parish ministries are encouraged to submit information about their ministry for the parish website. Ministries have a listing on the website which is available for announcements regarding a ministry event, description of the ministry, topics of discussion, meeting dates, and photos. Information for events may be submitted for the “News & Events” page of the Church website and the web calendar.

Please contact us if you would like to be a part of our Communications Team.

Submissions for the bulletin, our website, and our social media should be sent to:

church@sthelenvero.org

For information call Laura Lewis, 772-567-5129

HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Coordinadoras del Ministerio Hispano:

Ahora bien, hay diversidad de dones, pero el Espíritu es el mismo. Hay diversidad de ministerios, pero el Señor es el mismo.

Y hay diversidad de operaciones, pero es el mismo Dios el que hace todas las cosas en todos. 1Cor 12:5-6

La comunidad hispana de Santa Elena está compuesta por diversas culturas y talentos. ¿Te gustaría compartir tus dones con nosotros en este camino de fe hacia Dios, nuestro Padre? Nosotros somos las Coordinadoras del Ministerio Hispano. Estamos aquí para hablar, escuchar y servir. Llámenenos.

Contactos: Gloria Rivera y Deborah Morales, 772-778-3506.

ACÓLITOS/MONAGILLOS

Niños/as o Jóvenes que reciben el entrenamiento para ayudar al sacerdote en la celebración de la Santa Misa y otros servicios religiosos. Deben ser niños que hayan hecho ya su Primera Comunión.

Contacto: Lorenzo González – 772-584-7268

BAUTISMOS

El bautismo de nuestros hijos es verdaderamente una celebración de gozo y muy importante. Los bautismos en español son el segundo y cuarto domingo del mes a las 1:30pm. La clase de preparación para el Bautismo para los Padres y Padrinos se dan el primer viernes de cada mes a las 6:00pm en el salón St. Patrick del CLC (Christian Living Center o Salón de Vida Cristiana). A esta clase, deben asistir los Padres y los Padrinos. Los padrinos deben tener por lo menos 16 años y ser personas solteras que hayan recibido los sacramentos de iniciación o parejas que estén casados por la Iglesia. Los padres deben estar registrados en la parroquia y presentar el Certificado Civil de Nacimiento del hijo/hija que van a bautizar.

Contactos: Gloria Rivera, Deborah Morales, Lupe García , 772-494-9837.

CAMINO AL MATRIMONIO

Si estas contemplando casarse en una ceremonia católica en la iglesia, la pareja debe comunicarse con la oficina de la iglesia por lo menos 6 meses antes de su celebración. Los requisitos son: hablar con el Sacerdote y comenzar la documentación par realizar el matrimonio y deben asistir a las pláticas pre-matrimoniales llamadas “Camino al Matrimonio” organizadas por la Diócesis de Palm Beach. Estas platicas son una vez al año en Santa Elena y el resto del año se dan en la parroquia de Santa Juliana en West Palm Beach.

Contacto: Luisa y Rosendo Acosta, 561-444-8853.

CATECISMO

Asistir a los padres en la tarea de instruir a sus hijos en las creencias, valores y prácticas de la fe católica. Enseñar a los niños la importancia de ser un seguidor de Jesús junto con los conceptos clave de Dios, los Mandamientos, los Sacramentos, las Obras de Misericordia, nuestra Santísima Madre, los Santos, las oraciones católicas y la Iglesia de manera adecuada a su nivel de comprensión.

Contacto: Paige Fies, 772-562-5954

COMUNIDAD VENEZOLANA VIRGEN DE CHIQUINQUIRA

Perseverar en la fe y dar a conocer a la comunidad a nuestra Madre en la advocación de Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Chiquinquirá también conocida como la Virgen Chinita. En el mes de noviembre la celebramos con un rosario, con la procesión de la imagen de la Virgen hasta el Altar y la Eucaristía. Al terminar, celebramos a nuestra Madre con un compartir y serenatas.

Contacto: Mónica Acosta, 772-643-3482

CURSILLOS DE CRISTIANDAD

Facilitar el continuo crecimiento espiritual mediante la oración, el estudio y la acción. A través de un retiro de 3 días inicial y después el compartir en grupos semanalmente, compartimos nuestras experiencias cristianas poniendo nuestra fe en acción caminando hacia Jesús, nuestro Señor.

Contacto: Aura Carina Velasquez, 772-410-7408.

CORO HISPANO

Toda persona que toque algún instrumento o cante y est interesado en formar parte del ministerio de alabanza al Señor a través de la música.

Contacto: Luz Molina, 772-778-3506.

EDUCACION RELIGIOSA

La instrucción religiosa, que incluye la preparación sacramental para todos los niños y jóvenes de 4o a 7º grado, se lleva a cabo los domingos por la mañana de 10:00-11:30am seguida por la misa en español a las 12:15pm. La misa es parte de la clase y es obligatorio. Las clases para niños son en inglés. La inscripción comienza del 5 de julio al 9 de septiembre. La primera comunión es un programa de 2 años, asegúrese de registrar a su hijo en K o 1er grado para que sea elegible. Los niños regresan cada año para continuar su instrucción y crecimiento espiritual. Los padres deben asistir a la clase de padres y a la misa cada semana. Las clases para padres se llevan a cabo en español. Por favor regístrese en la Oficina de Educación Religiosa, 2005 Tallahassee Avenue.

Contacto: Paige Fies, 772-562-5954.

ENLACE

El papel del Enlace parroquial es establecer una conexión entre el Instituto Pastoral Diocesano y la comunidad parroquial, incluyendo: el párroco, el personal parroquial y los líderes laicos. A su vez promover en los anteriores, la participación en talleres, congresos, cursos de formación cristiana, etc., que se realizan a nivel diocesano.

Contactos: Contactos: Salvador y Estela Martínez, 772-766-3226.



ESCUELA DE FORMACION CRISTIANA DE LA DIOCESIS DE PALM BEACH

Nuestra Diócesis de Palm Beach ofrece una serie de estudios para adultos católicos para experimentar más profundamente el poder y la belleza de nuestra fe. Los temas incluyen: Liturgia, Sacramentos, Historia, Ministerio, Vaticano II, Ecclesiológia y otros. Aprenderá cómo nuestra cultura se está descristianizando y cómo puede ser un católico más fiel y comprender mejor por qué la Iglesia enseña ciertas cosas para que pueda crecer verdaderamente en su amor por Jesús y Su novia, la Iglesia, y vivir verdaderamente su fe católica.

Contacto: Jorge Trujillo, 772-321-7705

HERMANDAD DEL SEÑOR DE LOS MILAGROS

Mantener la devoción peruana y su identidad hacia el Señor de los Milagros y extender a toda la comunidad hispana nuestra devoción. Eventos y actividades incluyen: procesión y misa solemne del Señor de los Milagros en el mes de octubre. Seguida después de la misa habrá una cena de fraternidad en el salón parroquial. También, habrá una novena al Señor de los Milagros que comienza dos semanas antes de la gran celebración. Las novenas de este año se llevarán a cabo en las iglesias de Santa Elena.

Contacto: Max, 772-360-7294, Patricia, 772-633-9087, Angelica Garcia, 772-584-0011.

HOSPITALIDAD

¡Sea la cara alegre de Santa Elena! Este ministerio consiste en estar en la puerta para recibir a nuestros feligreses cada domingo, siempre tener un trato amable y cortés, mirar a los ojos al hermano que llega y sonreír al darle la bienvenida a nuestro hermano, que tal vez llegue un poco agobiado. Es como dejar que el rostro de Dios se asome a través de su propio rostro. Al terminar la misa, también se le da una pasada a todos los bancos para asegurar que todo esté en su sitio y limpio para nuestra próxima celebración.

Contacto: Asunción y María Vite, 772-360-2999

JUAN XXXIII

Amor, Entrega y Sacrificio. Viva un retiro de la cual su propósito es ser transformados y entregados al servicio del Señor mediante nuestra fe y la palabra de Dios. Primero se vive la renovación en uno mismo y después nuestra misión es invitar a personas que están alejadas de Dios para que regresen a su fe y se renuevan en el Señor.

Contacto: Christina Bonilla, 772-413-2529.



LECTORES

Como indica su nombre, estos feligreses son preparados para Proclamar la Palabra de Dios en todas las liturgias parroquiales. Un buen lector/a que proclama la palabra de Dios con fe, amor y humildad. Estas personas pueden ser solteros o casados, y deberán estar bautizados.

Contacto: Fabio Rodriguez, 561-229-4157.

MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS DE LA SANTA EUCARISTIA

Jesús nos llama a ser uno con Él a través de la Eucaristía. A través de nuestra devoción a Jesús y creyendo que Él está completamente presente en la Eucaristía al participar en este ministerio sagrado, estamos llamados a ayudar a nuestros sacerdotes y diáconos. Durante la celebración de la Santa Misa, asistimos al Sacerdote en la distribución de la Santa Eucaristía y también llevamos la Santa Comunión a los enfermos en los hospitales, asilos o inválidos en las casas. Estas personas pueden ser solteros o casados, pero deberán tener todos sus sacramentos y tendrán un entrenamiento especial antes de comenzar.

Contacto: Claro Velásquez, 772-260-2117

MISIÓN DE SAN MIGUEL ARCÁNGEL

La Rama de Oración del Ejercito de Cristo de la Obra de San Miguel Arcángel en Petralia, es un movimiento de oración (en obediencia al Papa y los Obispos, y en cumplimiento de la regla de la Obra de San Miguel Arcángel). “Yo Arcángel Miguel, por voluntad de Dios, pido que el día 29 de cada mes os reunáis, vosotros los hombres, y junto con vuestros ángeles de la guarda, recéis a nuestro Señor Jesús, y yo descenderé del cielo y estaré allí entre vosotros y rezaré con vosotros.” Mensaje del 12 de junio 2015. Están cordialmente invitados a reunirse con nosotros el día 29 de cada mes a las 6:00pm en el salón de St. Patrick del CLC.

Contacto: Maria Nieves Palomera, 954-544-6769.

ORANDO POR NUESTROS HIJOS

Esta ministerio tiene como misión principal orar constantemente por las necesidades de los hijos más necesitados de el amor de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, con las intercesión y guiá de nuestra Santísima Madre María con quien nos unimos al rezo del santo rosario. Somos hombres y mujeres de todas partes del mundo, creyentes en el poder de la oración y de sus frutos. La oración no es una opción, es una necesidad. Ora por tus hijos y verás los frutos de tus oraciones. Ven y únete a nosotros en comunidad a orar por nuestros hijos y los del mundo entero!

Contacto: Evangelina Morgan, 772-532-2801

QUINCEAÑERAS

Preparación de una niña para su misa de agradecimiento al Señor por sus 15 años de vida. Antes de la misa, es necesario que la Quinceañera asista a una clase como preparación para este momento en su vida. Es obligatorio estar bautizada, haber recibido la Primera Comunión y estar en el segundo año de Confirmación o ya haber recibido el sacramento de Confirmación. Se necesita contactar a la oficina con 6 meses de anticipación. Las quinceañeras son solamente el tercer sábado del mes.

Contacto: Gloria Rivera y Deborah Morales, 772-778-3506

R.I.C.A.

La instrucción religiosa para adultos en español comenzará el 17 de septiembre de 2023. Estas clases son para adultos no bautizados o adultos católicos que no tienen todos sus sacramentos y les gustaría completar su iniciación católica. Es necesario un formulario de registro completo, con copia de bautismo, si corresponde, y una reunión de admisión.

Contacto: Paige Fies, 772-562-5954

ROSARIO A LA SANTÍSIMA VIRGEN MARÍA

Rezamos el rosario a la Santísima Virgen María todos los domingos antes de la celebración de la Santa Misa. Pueden dirigir un rosario o hacer peticiones.

Contacto: Yolanda Vallejo, 772-538-8122

ROSARIO A LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA

Rezamos el rosario a la Divina Misericordia todos los domingos después de la Santa Misa.

Contacto: Estela Villegas y Blanca Favela, 772-563-8959

UJIERES

Dedicación, simpatía y disposición para ayudar a los demás y servir al Señor. Estos hermanos están encargados de hacer las colectas durante la misa, distribuyen el boletín u otras hojas de información a la comunidad, cierran las puertas y se aseguran de que todo esté en su sitio al terminar la misa y listo para la próxima celebración. También son punto de contacto para cualquier pregunta que puedan tener nuestros feligreses.

Contacto: Alfredo San Martin, 772-559-7750.



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