



Dear St. Helen Parishioner:

It is such a blessing to be starting my fifth 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. The program is outlined on the enclosed sheets. Moving forward into the 2026 / 2027 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 90% or higher. If you are enrolled in one of our Faith Formation programs, you must also maintain Mass attendance of 90% or higher to receive your sacraments.

Fr. Brian Campbell, pastor of St. John of the Cross, Fr. Tom Barrett, pastor of Holy Cross, Fr. Antony Pulikal, pastor of St. Sebastian, 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 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,

Father Matthew DeGance
Pastor

2085 Tallahassee Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960

PARISH PARTICIPATION PROGRAM



- Our Mass voucher program began August 28, 2021.
- 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, and they are not required as participation in this program.
- St. Helen Church will supply Mass attendance vouchers.
- 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.
- 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.
- If you attend St. John of the Cross, Holy Cross or St. Sebastian please hand your Mass voucher to a clergy member. The offices of those churches will scan your voucher to St. Helen.
- If you are attending Mass out of town, please drop off a copy of the Church Bulletin, signed by the priest of the Church you are attending. Bulletins should not be emailed directly to the church. Emailed copies will not be accepted.
- Attending a Mass during the week does not count as fulfilling your Sunday obligation and Holy Days of Obligation.
- It is important for the parish to maintain accurate contact information on each family. Please make sure we have your current contact information on file. To update your family information or to locate your parish ID, please contact the parish office, 772-567-5129 or email Church@sthelenvero.org.
- As a parishioner of St. Helen, you are expected to 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. 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.
- School families can track hours in Ren Web. There is a “church” category in the drop-down box. Sacramental families will be requested to fill out a form.

FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING ST. HELEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL, ST. ANASTASIA CATHOLIC SCHOOL, OR JOHN CARROLL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:

- If you are a registered parishioner of St. Helen parish and have a student attending St. Helen Catholic School, St. Anastasia Catholic School, or John Carroll High 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 will be adjusted to reflect the non-subsidized rate.
- The subsidized Catholic tuition 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. The Church will process your form and send it to the school you are attending.
- New parishioner families must have a Parishioner in Good Standing letter from their previous Catholic Church confirming registration to receive the subsidized rate for their first year of enrollment in Catholic school.
- The subsidized tuition rate will be determined based on your participation in the voucher program.
FOR ST. HELEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS: The tuition rate will be reviewed twice annually. To receive the subsidy, your family will need to attend 90% of the weekend Masses during each of these two time periods (January through June and July through December). Your tuition rate is based on your Mass attendance in the previous 6-month period, so it is imperative that you turn in your Mass voucher each week. **If your attendance falls below 90%**, you will not receive the tuition subsidy, and your tuition will revert to the non-subsidized rate for the next semester. FOR ST. ANASTASIA AND JOHN CARROLL: please contact the finance department for their accommodations.
- You may request an updated Mass attendance roster by calling 772-567-5129 or emailing Church@sthelenvero.org.

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRANTS:

- If you are enrolled in any of our Faith Formation classes, you participate in this program. This includes CCD, Confirmation, CIC, RCIA, and St. Helen Catholic School students.
- Fulfilling your weekly Mass obligation is required to you to receive the sacraments.
- A Mass Attendance Report will be emailed to the parents the first week of November and by the end of March to notify the child's attendance progress.
- **Mass attendance below 90%** indicates you are not ready to receive the sacrament. The Director of Religious Education will schedule a meeting with you.
- If you are registered as a parishioner of another Church, and participating in our Faith Formation Program, it is your responsibility to adhere to any requirements of your pastor for you to receive sacraments. St. Helen will require your pastor to write a letter of Permission to Receive the Sacrament out of parish.