

The Mission Statement of St. Helena Catholic School is to develop the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical character of each child in partnership with parents and the parish community. Instruction, founded on the Catholic Faith, encourages a life of service, devotion, and the pursuit of social justice. All members are expected to be responsible, respectful, safe, and like Christ. The students are encouraged to be active, participating members of their faith community, to enter into the sacramental life of the parish, and to use their talents for the benefit of others.

We incorporate our Catholic faith through the following special events and/or activities:

All School Worship - The school community attends Mass twice a month, Benediction and Private Devotions once a month, Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent, Monday Advent Services during Advent, and the Living Rosary in May. Family and friends of our community are encouraged and invited to join the school body for any of these worship days.

Class Masses - Each grade is assigned a Mass throughout the year. Students participate by bringing the gifts to the altar during the Offertory, reading the Epistle and the Responsorial Psalm, being altar servers, and kneeling on the altar with the priest during the Consecration.

Petitions at Mass - A student from each class is asked to read a special petition written by the class at each school Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Two adult classes are held for parents of students who are making the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Villano and John Sondag conduct these classes. Preparation for children is taught in second grade, and special arrangements can be made for students in other grades. First Reconciliation usually takes place in February or March. Students participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation twice a year, before Christmas and in preparation for Easter.

First Communion - Two adult classes are held for parents of students who are making their First Holy Communion. Fr. Villano and John Sondag conduct these classes. Preparation for First Holy Communion is taught in second grade, and special arrangements can be made for students in other grades. First Holy Communion usually takes place two Sundays after Easter at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Altar Servers - Beginning in fourth grade, boys may learn how to serve for Mass. They are called on to serve during Masses on the weekend, school Masses, and for funerals.

Choir - Students in grades 4 - 8 may join the St. Helena School Choir. Practice begins at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. The choir performs during all school Masses.

Christmas Program - Directed by our music teacher, the annual Christmas Program is held in Rowan Hall the week before Christmas break. The students prepare and perform a number of handpicked Christmas songs for their families and the greater St. Helena community. It is a wonderful event to bring out the best of the Christmas season.

Catholic Schools Week - This fun-filled week is devoted to celebrating our Catholic Identity. The beginning of the week is kick-offed with Special Visitors' Day which includes a Mass, classroom visits, and refreshments. Each day has a theme with special events. The Science Fair and Spelling Bee are held during the week as are the Skating Party and Faculty vs. Eighth Grade Volleyball Game. The week ends on Sunday with Open House and Registration for the next school year.

Living Rosary - This special event is held in honor of our volunteers and benefactors. The children become the human beads of the Rosary and lead the student body in prayer for all who have supported our school.

Eighth Grade Graduation - It takes a village to raise a child, thus we celebrate graduation during the parish 10 a.m. Mass. It is a celebration of the students' accomplishments, their families' commitment to Catholic education, and our St. Helena community.

Sacrament of Confirmation - Many of our graduates return during their freshman year of high school to attend Wednesday evening classes to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is celebrated in the spring.

St. Helena Catholic Church - In 2013, our parish will celebrate its centennial. Often you will hear the Church would not be here if it was not for the school, and the school would not be here if it was not for the Church. The Church plays an integral part in subsidizing the school and keeping the cost of tuition affordable for all families. Many of our school families are also members of our Church. Parishioners are given a discounted tuition rate and price breaks for multiple children.

Our students have the opportunity to nurture friendships with the elders of our parish by performing at senior luncheons, playing Bingo with the seniors, and sharing doughnuts after Masses. The St. Helena community also hosts the annual Autumn Daze Festival in September. School families are strongly encouraged to attend, participate, and volunteer for this wonderful event.

Religious Curriculum - Students in grades K-8 use the Faith and Life Series textbook. St. Helena has an in depth curriculum that helps students to delve into the different aspects of the Catholic faith. It uses real world vocabulary and explains our faith in specific details. St. Helena uses the religion standards that have been put forth by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.