

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience as we have prayerfully considered the future structure of our PSR program. There are a few changes to the program moving forward. The discernment of, and ultimately, the decision for these changes was impacted by two main factors. The first factor is the new relationship of St. Helena and Mater Dolorosa Parishes as a result of having a shared pastor and parochial vicar. The expectation is that this will be the normal mode of operating for both parishes for the foreseeable future. That being the case, it's desirable that the two communities mutually enrich each other by working together where possible. As you will see, the new structure will reflect this. The second factor that influenced this discernment was the lowering of the age of Confirmation to the 7th grade. The structure for the PSR program beginning this summer applies to both St. Helena and Mater Dolorosa parishes. That being the case, priority will be given to our young people when it comes to registration. The program will be as follows:

The REQUIREMENTS for ALL kindergarten – 11th grade students of registered parishioners of St. Helena, Mater Dolorosa and St. Dominic will be to (1) attend the one-week 2025 Summer Intensive Program at St. Helena on June 9th-13th, 8am-12pm and also will continue Catechetical training with (2) once a month classes starting August 24th through February 19th. (The fall classes will be available at both St. Helena and St. Dominic.) In addition, (3) 5th – 11th grade students will also need to attend the Encounter Nights every third Thursday at Mater Dolorosa during the fall classes schedule.

**CONFIRMATION FOR STUDENTS GOING INTO GRADES 9TH, 10TH & 11TH FOR FALL OF 2025
WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY 2026 (DATES TBA).**

**CONFIRMATION FOR STUDENTS GOING INTO GRADES 7TH, 8TH & 9TH FOR FALL OF 2026
WILL BE HELD IN 2027 (DATES TBA).**

**THE GOAL FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES IS BY 2028 WE WILL CELEBRATE
THE FIRST 7TH GRADE ONLY CONFIRMATION CLASS.**

If you are not a parishioner and would like to attend our PSR Program, pastor approval in your parish is required. To receive PSR participation, all 3 components listed above must be completed. Non-Parishioners are allowed to participate in our PSR Program, but will be on a WAIT LIST until Parishioners are registered.

The purpose for this change is to strengthen your child with an understanding of their faith that is deeper than intellectual assertion. Given the tools and resources, our hope and prayer is that they will Confirm with a heart on fire for the Lord, ready to proclaim His word. Please contact the Church Office at 985-748-9057 with any questions you may have. **Registration** is online at <https://sthelenachurch.net/psr> or you can come to Church Office to fill out form.

Faithfully In Christ,

Fr. Reuben Dykes
Pastor