



February 17, 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

Today, Ash Wednesday, marks the start of Lent. In class we prepared a plan to identify what each student wishes to do during Lent. The objective is to establish weekly goals to enable each student to grow closer to God through works of giving. The plan addresses what they will do for themselves, for their family, for their friends, someone they do not know very well, and their church. Please discuss with your student what she/he has decided to do and how it will be carried out in their 2010 Lenten Journey with God. We all agree that example speaks louder than words. We encourage parents and families to participate in this journey as well.

All forms, essays, and fees are due today. These were given at September's Parent & Student Orientation meeting as part of the Confirmation packet:

- \$75 Fee
- Parent Commitment Form
- Baptism certificate
- 1st Holy Communion certificate
- Confirmation Certification Information form.
- Student Essay (My Confirmation Name Essay: Sharing the Story of My Saint)
- Sponsor Eligibility form

Any part of the Confirmation packet can be printed from the parish website at www.StAgnesNaples.org. Late items can be mailed, faxed (239) 325-1150 or dropped off at the parish office M-F, 9-4. If you wish to drop off paperwork during Mass times, please put in a sealed envelope and put it under the office door, labeled "To: Faith Formation Office."

Wishing you just enough,

Lynne Fraser

Please see REMINDERS on back.

Confirmation with Bishop Dewane will be celebrated
Sun, May 2 at 11am Mass
(Practice is on Wed. April 28 at 6 PM the sponsor or parent must attend)

REMINDERS!!!

Your student should have brought home a Youth Group 2010 calendar in January. They are printable from the parish website under the Faith Formation/Youth Group section. All public school students preparing for Confirmation this year must attend at least 15 youth nights at the church. Attendance is taken every week, including service nights (but not including HS social nights.)

We also expect your student to attend Mass on a regular basis. Mass Times are:

4pm Saturday Vigil Mass

Sundays: 7:30am

9am

11am

1pm (in Spanish)

5:30pm (will continue through Palm Sunday)

The next Confirmation Meeting is the PARISH MISSION:

Monday Feb. 22, Tuesday Feb. 23, and Wednesday Feb. 24 is the Parish-wide 3-Day Mission. **Both parents and students are required to attend all three evenings.** (Other family members and sponsors are encouraged to come too. The Cry Room will be open if you have infants attending with the family.) All three sessions begin at 7pm in the main Church they will end approximately at 8:15pm. Do not go to the Chapel. The sign-in table will be in the Narthex of the main Church each night. We have arranged for reserved seating in the front right section of pews for teachers, students and families to all sit together.

Please note that Tuesday, Feb. 23 is the Lenten Communal Penance Service. All Confirmation students are expected to go to individual Confession that evening as part of their preparation for Confirmation. Your student will be given instructions at the 2/17 class in case it has been several years since their last confession.

We wish you a most blessed and meaningful Lent!!!

How to Make a Good Confession

To make a good confession five things are necessary: (1) Examination of Conscience; (2) Sorrow for having offended God; (3) A resolution of sinning no more; (4) Confession of our sins; (5) Satisfaction or penance.

How to Go to Confession

1. The Priest will often begin with the Sign of the Cross or a greeting and blessing.
2. You will begin by saying, “Bless me Father for I have sinned, this is my first confession.”

(Or “It has been [number of days, weeks, months, or years] since my last confession.”)

“I am here today because I have these sins _____. For these and all the sins of my life I am sorry.” *(By this you tell the priest that you are finished.)*

3. The Priest may ask questions for clarification or give you some counsel on a point from your confession. Answer briefly.
4. The Priest will give you a penance. Listen to it carefully and remember it.
5. Make an act of contrition in these or similar words:

**O my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance, to sin no more, and
to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In his name, may God, have mercy. Amen**

6. The priest says the words of absolution, “...I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.”

You reply, “His mercy endures forever.” You may leave the confessional.

7. After leaving the confessional, do your penance as soon as possible and put in practice the advice of the Priest.

Como Hacer una Buena Confesión

Para hacer una Buena confesión cinco cosas son necesarias: (1) Examen de Conciencia; (2) Arrepentimiento por haber ofendido a Dios; (3) el propósito de no pecar mas ;(4) Confesión de los pecados; (5) Cumplir la penitencia.

Cómo Confesarse

1. El sacerdote empezará con la Señal de la Cruz ó un saludo y bendición.
2. Tu empezarás diciendo, “Perdóname Padre porque he pecado, esta es mi primera confesión.”
(O “Hace... [Número de días, semanas, meses, o años] desde mi última confesión.”)

“Estoy aquí porque tengo estos pecados _____.Por estos y todos los pecados de mi vida estoy arrepentido(a). “ (Con esto le dejas saber al sacerdote que has terminado.)

3. El sacerdote puede hacerte algunas preguntas para clarificar o darte algunos consejos en algún punto de tu confesión. Contesta brevemente.
4. El sacerdote te dará una penitencia. Escúchala cuidadosamente y recuérdala.
5. Haz un acto de contrición en estas palabras u otras similares.

Oh Dios mío, me arrepiento de mis pecados con todo mi corazón.

Al escoger hacer lo malo y dejar de hacer lo bueno,

He pecado contra ti a quien debo amar sobre todas las cosas.

Propongo firmemente, con tu ayuda,

Cumplir la penitencia, no pecar más, y

Evitar las ocasiones que me llevan al pecado.

Nuestro Salvador Jesucristo sufrió y murió por nosotros.

En su nombre, Dios, ten misericordia. Amén

6. El sacerdote dice las palabras de la absolución y termina con, “Dale gracias a Dios, porque El es bueno “.
Tú contestas, “Su misericordia perdura para siempre” Puedes dejar el confesionario
7. Después de dejar el confesionario, haga la penitencia lo más pronto posible y ponga en práctica los consejos del sacerdote.

Examination of Conscience for Young Teens

The 10 Commandments are a useful tool for young people to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You're old enough to know the drill: Examine your conscience, make a mental list of sins, pick the "nice" priest and go to confession. But how many take time to make a thorough examination of their consciences before the sacrament of reconciliation? Just like cleaning your rooms and doing your homework, you're going to need reminders. Here are some questions young teens should ask themselves before participating in reconciliation.

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me

Have I wanted more things, making things more important than God?

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

When I make promises, do I take them seriously?

Do I use God's name carelessly or in anger?

3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day

Did I stay home from church when I could have gone with my family?

Have I tried to get a ride to church for mass if I needed one?

Have I remembered to pray regularly?

4. Honor your father and your mother

Do I obey my parents?

Have I done my chores without complaining?

Have I been disrespectful to teachers or coaches?

5. You shall not kill

Do I keep my patience or do I lose my temper?

Do I hold grudges and try to get even with others?

Have I been unfair to others, especially those who are different than I am?

Have I refused to forgive someone else?

Have I caused another person to sin?

6. You shall not commit adultery

Have I forgotten to show respect for the bodies of others as well as myself?

Do I avoid harmful things like drugs, tobacco and alcohol?

7. You shall not steal

Have I taken something that belongs to someone else?

Have I failed to return something that I borrowed?

Have I used money responsibly?

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor

Do I play fairly or do I ever cheat at school or games?

Have I been honest, truthful and fair or have I lied?

Have I hurt someone by what I have said or done?

Have I copied someone else's homework?

9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife

Have I been jealous of friends that someone else has?

Have I tried to be kind to others?

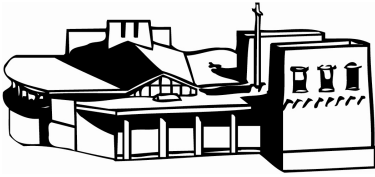
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

Have I been jealous of the things that my friends have?

Have I nagged my parents into buying things because my friends have them?

Have I helped others when they needed help?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday morning at St. Agnes immediately following the 8:30AM Mass (in the Chapel) from 9-10AM (in the Church).



St. Agnes Catholic Church

Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation

Behavior and Dress Code

No chewing gum, candy, food, or drinks are allowed in the church or chapel. Please leave all electronic devices (radios/tape players, hand-held computer toys, I-Pods, MP-3 players, etc.) at home. As a courtesy to those around you and the sacredness of the event, please silence your cell phones until dismissal. It is critical to take good care of church property. Any damage to church property must be repaired or replaced at the expense of the offender. Parent cooperation to teach respect for property, materials, furnishings, equipment and the building itself is vital. This applies to inside all church buildings as well as the outside campus. There are specific areas of the church campus that are sacred places of prayer and meditation that deserve the utmost reverence. Those places include the Eucharistic Reservation Room, Columbarium and Memorial Garden, Stations of the Cross, Mary Grotto, and water features. Please refrain from horseplay and climbing especially in these areas so as to allow veneration at all times. These areas provide parents (and grandparents) with teachable moments to their children about holiness and respect for God.

Members and guests of all ages are asked to observe modest dress and its effect upon the sacred environment. Good taste is knowing where and when to wear the appropriate clothing and accessories. Since the parents provide the funds, guidance, and upkeep of the children's clothing worn at church, it is the responsibility of the parents to see that grooming reflects the modesty and good taste expected at all church functions.

- Safe footwear shall be worn at all times. No rubber flip-flops or bedroom slippers.
- No bare skin should be exposed at the waist, abdomen, back, cleavage or shoulders. Shoulder straps must be at least two inches in width. Halter tops, strapless tops, muscle shirts are not appropriate. Clothing must cover the chest area to ensure that cleavage is not exposed.
- The length of skirts/dresses and shorts should pass the "fingertip test." If your fingertips touch the skin when the arms are held straight at the sides, then the clothing item is too short and should not be worn. Costumes, sleepwear or other clothing/adornment that creates a distraction from the sacredness of the event is not permitted. Shorts and pants must be fitted or cinched so as to not slip or reveal undergarments.
- Intentionally altered clothing or unbuttoned and ill-fitted garments are not acceptable. Ill-fitted garments include, but are not limited to, garments that are too small so as to reflect immodest or too large so as to appear to be falling off the body. Transparent, mesh or see-through clothing may not be worn without other appropriate clothing underneath. Clothing shall be free of inflammatory, suggestive or other inappropriate writing, advertisement, or artwork.
- Hats or other head coverings shall not be worn in the church buildings, except for those that are worn for religious purposes. Hair shall be clean and neatly groomed. Hair color and style shall not create a distraction from the sacredness of the event.
- Body piercing in any visible body part other than the ears should not be displayed if it presents a health/safety issue, reflects poor taste, or creates a distraction from the sacredness of the event.

First Communion Dress Code. We suggest that in preparing for this special day you keep in mind the real meaning of the celebration of this beautiful sacrament and try to keep the wardrobe in its proper perspective. Your son/daughter should wear whatever you consider to be "dressed up" best attire. Athletic footwear is inappropriate/unacceptable.

For boys, a white button down dress shirt (short or long sleeved), dress pants and a neck/bow tie of any color are appropriate. A sport coat is optional.

For girls, a white dress is not required. Any modest dress suitable for a special occasion is appropriate. Ankle-length dresses are inappropriate as children might trip and injure themselves. Slacks are unacceptable. Veils are optional; we recommend that it be simple, short, and securely fastened. Above all, the headpiece should not be a distraction to her or to anyone around her during the ceremony. Gloves should not be worn.

Confirmation Dress Code is the same as the First Communion dress code above for boys and girls (except no veil is to be worn). The most important consideration is to have your child wear something tasteful and modest, that is not a distraction to them or to others during the ceremony.

My 2010 Lenten Journey: Growing closer to God

1. Myself - what can I do for myself? How will I accomplish this?

2. Family - what can I do for my family? How will I accomplish this?

3. Friends - what can I do for friends? How will I accomplish this?

4. Others - what can I do for others? How can I accomplish this?

5. Church - what can I do for my church? How can I accomplish this?