

Dear St. Agnes Families,

As faith formation classes begin, it is important that we remain vigilant regarding the H1N1 virus without creating panic regarding a pandemic. A key concern rises from the statement that “Illness rates will be highest among school-aged children (about 40 percent) and decline with age.”

There are common sense steps that can be taken; but most important is that decisions are based on correct information. Families will want to bookmark <http://www.flu.gov/index.html> and review it on a regular basis.

One of the difficulties is that “The typical incubation period (interval between infection and onset of symptoms) for influenza is approximately 2 days.” Children and youth will be participating in faith formation programs but not exhibit any signs of illness. Therefore it is important that good hygiene is practiced.

The Government warns that “Persons who become ill may shed virus and can transmit infection for one-half to one day before the onset of illness. Viral shedding and the risk of transmission will be greatest during the first 2 days of illness. Children will play a major role in transmission of infection as their illness rates are likely to be higher because they shed more virus over a longer period of time and they do not control their secretions as well”.

The most comprehensive source of information is *Preparing for the Flu (Including 2009 H1N1 Flu): A Communication Toolkit for Schools (K-12)*. You can download the PDF at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflutoolkit.pdf>. (If your faith formation program is held in a building where regular day school classes are not held, you may wish to print several of the posters that are found towards the end of this resource and post them in appropriate locations. All schools have been provided information to assist them in communicating with parents. It would be advisable to maintain contact with school officials on this issue.)

Go to <http://www.pandemicflu.gov> for information regarding pandemic influenza including checklists for individuals & families, healthcare providers, businesses, local governments, community and faith-based organizations and schools.

The Pandemic Flu/Avian Flu Web site is updated on an as-needed basis. Sometimes changes are needed hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly depending upon the content. The homepage, for instance, changes almost every day and often more frequently.

You can sign up to be notified about changes to the site by visiting the [Email Update](#) service wherever "E-mail me when this page is updated" appears on a page.

Go to <http://www.cdc.gov> for information about pandemic flu, including infection control recommendations, antiviral medications and other health formation.

Go to <http://www.fda.gov> for questions and answers about using personal protective equipment during an influenza outbreak.

Go to <http://www.hhs.gov> for information about pandemic flu surveillance, lab diagnostics, novel case reporting, and pandemic flu planning.

Go to <http://www.redcross.org> for all the information needed to make an emergency preparation plan and kit.

STAY HEALTHY

Take common-sense steps to limit the spread of germs.

Make good hygiene a habit.

Wash hands frequently with soap and water.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Put used tissues in a waste basket.

Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.

Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing. Use soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.

Stay at home if you are sick.

If you have a fever, stay home for at least 24 hrs after that fever has ended

Source: www.pandemicflu.gov For additional information, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm#School>

St. Agnes Church 50-50 Partnership

The ministers and staff of St. Agnes Parish make the following promises to your family:

- 1) St. Agnes promises to make the Sunday Mass the focal point of parish life. We welcome any and all families—no matter their life situation—to actively participate.
- 2) The St. Agnes parish bulletin provides a “Question of the Week” arising from the next Sunday’s readings on which you can reflect as a family in preparation for Mass.
- 3) St. Agnes offers a quality faith formation curriculum that is approved by the local bishop and faithful to Catholic teaching. We promise to provide the necessary training for the catechists to carry out their work in our parish.
- 4) During the St. Agnes monthly Family Assembly, we plan meaningful activities designed to deepen your family’s connection to the Catholic faith. St. Agnes also provides the necessary resources such as bibles, grade-level workbooks, parent guides, handouts, and web sites to assist you with faith sharing and teaching at home.
- 5) St. Agnes promises to be a resource for those families whose children are preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Communion. This includes monthly instruction, student workbooks, at-home reflections, rehearsals, and celebrations of these rites of initiation into the Catholic Church.
- 6) St. Agnes provides various opportunities for your family to serve the ill, the poor, the rejected, and the suffering, both in and outside our parish family.
- 7) In summary, St. Agnes Parish dedicates itself to you, the community of believers, so that all may experience conversion and growth in the Catholic faith.

*The _____ family
promises the following on a regular basis, to the best of our ability:*

- 1) Actively participate in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation on a regular basis.
- 2) Attend the monthly Family Assembly in the spirit of cooperation to share in the meal, prayers, and activities. We promise to attend any additionally required meetings, rehearsals, and retreats necessary to our children’s faith formation and sacrament preparation.
- 3) At least once each week, as a family, we promise to set aside time to discuss the at-home themes.
- 4) We promise to seek ways to live and share our Catholic faith every day.
- 5) Regardless of sacraments received or yet to be received (Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion) we promise to continue our family’s faith formation because we understand that faith formation is a lifetime process of ongoing conversion at every age.

*As a family, please read and sign this partnership.
Display it in a prominent place in your home as a reminder of our commitment to one another.*

Iglesia de St Agnes Sociedad 50-50

Los ministros y personal de la iglesia de St Agnes hacen las siguientes promesas a su familia:

1. St Agnes promete hacer la misa dominical el foco de la vida parroquial . Le damos la bienvenida a todas las familias para que participen ,
2. El boletín de la Iglesia de St .Agnes provee “ la Pregunta de la Semana “ basada en las Lecturas del siguiente domingo sobre las cuales Usted puede reflexionar con su familia en preparacion para la misa .
3. St. Agnes ofrece un curriculo de formacion en la fe de calidad , aprobado por el Obispo local y fiel a las enseñanzas catolicas.
4. Durante las asambleas familiares mensuales planeamos actividades significativas encaminadas a profundizar la coneccion de su familia a la fe catolica .St Agnes provee los recursos necesarios como biblias, libros de trabajo para cada grado ,guia para los padres, material additional, y sitio en el internet-web para ayudarles a compartir la fe y enseñanza en el hogar .
5. St Agnes promete ser un recurso para las familias cuyos hijos se estan preparando para los Sacramentos de Reconciliacion, Confirmacion, y Primera Comunión . Esto incluye instruccion mensual, libros para el estudiante, reflexiones para la casa , practica,y celebracion de estos ritos de iniciacion en la iglesia catolica .
6. St. Agnes provee varias opportunities para que su familia sirva al enfermo, al pobre, al despojado, dentro y fuera de la familia parroquial .
7. En resumen, la parroquia de St. Agnes se dedica a Usted , la comunidad de creyentes , asi todos pueden experimentar conversion y crecimiento en la fe catolica .

La familia _____ promete hacer regularmente y poner lo mejor de nuestra parte :

- 1) Participar en la Misa Dominical y Dias Festivos de Obligacion .
2. Asistir a la Asamblea de Familia mensual con espiritu de cooperacion para compartir en la comida,la oracion y actividades .Prometemos asistir a reuniones , practicas y retiros necesarios para la preparacion de nuestros hijos en la formacion en la fe y preparacion para los sacramentos .
- 3.Prometemos sacar tiempo ,como familia, una vez a la semana para estudiar los temas asignados .
4. Prometemos buscar formas de vivir y compartir nuestra fe catolica todos los dias .
5. Sin importar los sacramentos recibidos o por recibir -Bautismo, Confirmacion, Primera Comunión - prometemos continuar la formacion en la fe de nuestra familia porque entendemos que la formacion en la fe es un proceso de por vida de constante conversion a cada edad.

*En familia, por favor lea y firme este compromiso
Coloquela en un lugar visible en su casa como un recordatorio de nuestro compromiso del uno al otro.*

Deseo ser voluntario en el Programa de Formacion en la Fe . Marque como desea ayudar

Maestra Leader de Grupo

Comida-hospitalidad

Musica -canto

Catequista para la preparacion. de los Sacramentos

Cuidado de infantes

Escuela Intermedia Ministerio Juvenil

High School Ministerio Juvenil

Comite Social de la Iglesia

Asistir grupo de adultos 'dia-noche

Facilitar grupo de adultos

Otro -----

Nombre -----Telefono-----

--

Direccion -----

-

E-Mail-----

-

Would you like to volunteer in the Faith Formation Program in the following ways (circle all that apply):

Station Leader Teacher

Food/Hospitality

Music/Singing

Sacrament Prep Catechetical Team (Confirmation/1st Communion)

Nursery/Child Care

Middle School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry

Church Social Committee

Attend Adult Group (day/eve)

Facilitate Adult Group

Other:_____

Name: _____ Phone:_____

Address:_____

E-Mail_____

St. Agnes Faith Formation Expectations

Always do your BEST! Make a commitment as a family to:

- +Attend Mass on a regular basis.
- +Attend the monthly assemblies together--with a smile!
- +Work together at home faithfully each week.
- +Call the office if you're not able to attend part or all of the assembly.
- +Print missed homework from our website so you won't fall behind.
- +Let us know if you are having any difficulty. We'll do our BEST to help you.

Get online and take the chapter test! Here's how: If you have internet access, when children are done with their chapter, they may go to the Faith First website to take the chapter test. Here's how to take an online Chapter Test:

1. At the www.FaithFirst.com website, click **Kids' Clubhouse (K-3)** or **Kids Only (4-6)**.
2. Choose **Chapter Review, Legacy Edition**, then choose the appropriate **Grade & Chapter**.
3. Follow the directions on the screen to take the test.
4. Email the results with your child's First and Last Name to Ivy@StAgnesNaples.org. We usually reply back to at least one of your emails each month so please type an email address for us to reply. If you never get a reply, we are probably not getting the email so let us know if you need help.
5. For every test Ivy receives, your child will get a ticket that can be cashed in for prizes at the Tickets for Treasure table the following month. The table will be open at dismissal.
6. **NOTE:** If your weekly assignment does not have an online test associated with it (such as the Kindergarten & some Liturgical themes) you can e-mail a note stating in your child's own words what he/she learned & your family activity/goal for the week. Also, please do not do chapters that are not yet assigned, it is best done at the same pace as a united community.

Never give up! Decide as a family on a routine day & time.

- +Make a special dinner or have a yummy dessert to make your lesson night more rewarding! Make it fun and enjoy learning together!
- +Pick a unique place in your home to gather or change it up every week!
- +If you get sidetracked one month, start anew the next!
- +Remember that you are your child's best teacher of the faith. Statistics prove that children learn better from YOU than in a classroom.

Excessive absences and missed homework may delay reception of Reconciliation & First Communion at the discretion of the Director. Stay in contact with the office regarding attendance, homework, and any special situations that affect your participation and we will help in whatever way we can.

See God's presence in all you do! Live your faith, share your faith, and continue to grow in your faith-- always! Don't forget to come back year after year... our faith journey never ends. The parish offers a variety of events and sessions for adults and students of every age. And more are being added all the time!

St. Agnes Parish Faith First for Families FAQs

What is Faith First for Families? St. Agnes has adopted a “whole family catechesis” approach that we call “FAITH FIRST FOR FAMILIES” (FFF). FFF includes the entire family and meets once a month Sept-May. Registration is during May-August. There are two parts to FFF:

- 1) Monthly assemblies designed for the entire family including dinner, prayer, & learning stations.
- 2) Weekly studies taught by parents in the convenience of their own schedule at home with an online testing & reward system. You may choose Sundays (4:30-7:30PM) or Wednesdays (5-8PM). 1 absence is allowed.

Does my entire family have to attend every assembly? All family members are highly encouraged to come. At least one parent or guardian must accompany their child. Older siblings who are in the Youth Group help serve dinner and assist the station leaders so the whole family can be together.

Will I always be with my child at the assemblies? Yes, the only exception is on the first night during the Safety lesson. Please accompany your child to the restroom and drinking fountain at all times. St. Agnes is still a public building that is accessible to the public!

Is there babysitting for my little one? Children of all ages are welcome at the stations if they are happy being there! We offer childcare during the station rotations in the Cry Room for children under 5. Please leave your cell phone number with the caregiver in case your child needs you. Be sure to attend the station rotations in numerical order, so we can always find you!

Do we have Mass when we come? The Wednesday format does not include Mass, it has a 4th station, instead. Sunday format (starting in October) includes 5:30 Mass with pre-mass announcements at 5:15.

Is dinner included?

SUN FORMAT: As you arrive each month you will eat dinner first. Then check-in at the Reception Area and get an agenda. The agenda tells you what’s next! You’ll then have some time to wash up before gathering in the main church at 5:15 for pre-mass announcements and 5:30 Mass.

WED FORMAT: As you arrive each month, you will check-in first at the Reception Area and get an agenda. The agenda tells you what’s next!

Each month your family will enjoy dinner out on the lawn (bring a blanket!) Dinner is a \$10 donation per family, per month. We will publish the menu in the bulletin in case you need to bring your own picnic—we know kids are sometimes picky! If you forget your blanket or chairs, extras are available near the main restrooms for your use. Be sure to wash up and use the restroom facilities during this time.

What happens after dinner?

WED FORMAT: A bell will call you to the Opening Prayer in the sanctuary.

SUN FORMAT: After the final hymn of Mass, the station rotations will begin shortly so please remain in the pews.

At both formats, we invite the children to come to the steps of the altar for singing and dancing. We usually use the DVD from last summer’s VBS. We hope parents participate too! (If you don’t show excitement about your Lord and Savior, how will your children catch on?) We begin our sessions with prayer and explain the station rotations.

What are Station Rotations? Each month your family will attend to 3-4 activity stations that last about 20 minutes each. The entire assembly will be divided into 4 equal groups and each group will begin at one of the stations. When the bell rings, your group will move to the next station in sequential order. For example, If you started at Station 1 you will move to Station 2, then 3, then 4. Those who started at Station 4 go next to Station 1, then 2, then 3. The stations are located throughout the church (even sometimes outside!) so there's lots of variety and stimulation for the kiddos.

What are the Stations about? Each station is a 20-minute preview of the homework chapters that will be assigned for that month. In this way you are not approaching a lesson "cold turkey" at home, but will have a frame of reference (if you paid attention in the station!) Often you will be watching a video, making a craft, or having an interactive lecture such as a skit or demonstration! Stations are taught on a 2nd grade level, so we appreciate parents helping their children pay attention and fill-in-the-blanks or expand the lesson at home, depending on their comprehension level.

When do we get our Tickets for Treasures? Tickets for Treasures are given every month during announcements. Anyone who emails the director their test score or homework summary gets a ticket. Their name & number of tickets earned (usually 3 per month) is shown on the screen. If your child's name is missing or the number of tickets earned is incorrect, we trust you enough to have your child come forward to get the right amount. We don't want any tears! Many families send test scores on the same day of the assembly so the display screen will not reflect those new tests, since the list is manually typed a few days ahead of the assembly. Usually you will get at least one reply to your email that we received your test score. If you do not type the correct "from" email address the reply will be undeliverable. If your child's information continues to be left off, let us know. If you do not have email, your child can bring the completed workbook or homework summary up at that time. If you miss a month or

How do we know what to do at home? At dismissal the station leaders/helpers will be at the main exits with the blue homework sheets. They can also be printed from the website. Please call the office with questions or concerns, we want you to be successful at home!

St. Agnes Parish Faith Formation FAQs

Welcome to St. Agnes Parish! We are committed to helping your family in the formation of the Catholic faith! The FIRST question we hear from parents is usually, "When are the First Communion classes?" See below...but first, read about the rest!

When should my child begin Faith Formation classes? Enrollment starts in the first grade (kindergarten is optional) up to 5th grade. Faith Formation for older children is called "Youth Group" which meets every Sunday night. Parents do not attend Youth Group with their students but are highly encouraged to volunteer on various committees that work "behind the scenes" for the teens.

When are the First Communion classes for my child? First Communion preparation is a minimum of two years. The first year your family enrolls in FFF alone and the second year they re-enroll in FFF plus First Communion Classes (must be at least age 7 by Sept. 1.) See the Schedule of Classes for specific class dates and times, as they tend to change each year.

Why should I sign up for faith formation the next year after First Communion since Confirmation is not until 10th grade? After the celebration of First Communion, children are still capable of growing in their faith and knowledge of the sacraments that they received this year. Re-enrollment in faith formation and/or youth group gives your family's a foundation of faith to last through the biggest storms of life!

When are the Confirmation classes? Do parents attend too? Confirmation preparation is a minimum of 2 years preparation. In 9th grade the teens enroll in Youth Group. In 10th grade, they re-enroll in Youth Group plus attend monthly youth-only meetings beginning in September, plus additional parent and youth sessions throughout the year. Confirmation is celebrated at the end of the 10th grade school year, in April or May, with the Bishop.

What if my child has already been Confirmed, aren't we "done?" Regardless of sacraments already received, students are highly encouraged to return to Youth Group year after year as a sign of the commitment to a Catholic lifestyle that they embraced at their Confirmation.

Does my student attend Faith Formation if he/she attends Catholic school or is home schooled? These students who wish to receive their sacraments at St. Agnes Church, are required to attend sacrament classes only. (Their faith formation obligation is met through their Catholic curriculum provided at school or home.)

What if my child has not been baptized yet? We have a program for that too! It is also a two-year preparation process beginning with enrollment in FFF or Youth Group, depending on grade. Please meet with the Faith Formation director to discuss your needs.