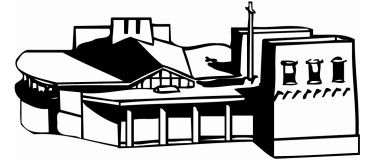


**2009-2010 St. Agnes
Grades 6 and up
Reconciliation and First Communion**



We are gathered here today to prepare your child for a lifetime of celebrating the sacramental life of the Church through Reconciliation and Communion. Confirmation preparation will begin in 9th and continue in 10th grade, with the Sacrament of Confirmation received at the end of 10th grade. This is a new policy established by Bishop Frank J. Dewane, Diocese of Venice in May 2009.

The sacramental life is central to who we are as Catholic followers of Jesus Christ! Students will be prepared for Reconciliation and Communion through a minimum of two consecutive years of Faith Formation, in which the second year includes an additional series of immediate sacrament preparation sessions. All sessions are attended by at least one parent or guardian. You are here tonight because your student is beginning his/her second year of preparation. We thank you for your renewed commitment to this very special time in your student's faith journey. We pray that your journey of faith will be enriched immensely by experiencing this process with your child, as well!



Parent's Checklist

- ❑ Sign-in at today's meeting.
 - Pick up Communion Packet containing forms and a calendar. This shows important dates relating to your child's sacraments.
 - Parent Commitment for Sacrament Preparation of their child form (sign and return tonight).
- ❑ Please have on the following on file at St. Agnes by the next meeting (Oct 21):
 - Family registration as members our parish
 - A copy of your child's Baptismal certificate
 - Communion Certificate Information Form
 - If you did not attend St. Agnes last year, a letter (or report card) from the church/school your child attended religious education last year (2008-2009 school year).
 - Pay fees. There is a sacramental fee of \$75 payable to St. Agnes Parish.

First Reconciliation Communal Celebration (whole family)
Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 7 pm

First Communion ceremony is
Sunday May 23, 2010

Tonight you will have a chance to sign up for the Mass time of your choice:
8:30am, 10:30am, or 12:30pm (Spanish)

Mandatory Rehearsal will be on the **Wednesday May 19, 2010** at 6-8pm.

Frequently Asked Questions About First Reconciliation

What does the Church ask of parents in sacramental preparation?

The Church views the role of parents in the religious formation of children as both a privilege and an obligation. When you presented your child to the Church for baptism, you were distinctly reminded that you have the responsibility of "raising them in the practice of the faith" (Rite of Baptism). This obligation and privilege extend to sacramental preparation.

What does my child need to know?

- A child needs to know the difference between right and wrong.
 - The child needs to understand that accidents or mistakes are not sins.
 - When we deliberately choose to do what is wrong and turn away from God, we sin.
 - God is loving and merciful. God will always forgive us if we ask.
 - Jesus has given us the sacrament of Reconciliation through which our sins are forgiven and we receive the grace to live as God's children.
 - We must be willing to forgive others, just as God forgives us.
-

How can I tell if my child is ready for first reconciliation?

There are many indicators of readiness for first reconciliation, most of which are intangible. As a parent, listen carefully to what your child says about wrongdoing and misbehavior. Encourage the child to take responsibility for his/her behavior rather than blaming others. Watch to see if your child is capable of being sorry and asking forgiveness of others without your prompting. Then, ask yourself the following:

- Is prayer a part of your child's life?
 - Does your child have the capacity for sincere sorrow and make an honest effort to do better?
 - Can your child express sorrow and describe wrongdoing in his/her own words?
-

How can I encourage my child's participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation beyond "first" reconciliation?

- Plan a family party to celebrate your child's first reconciliation. By acknowledging the importance of this event, you convey its value into the future.
- During this time of preparation, you are talking with your child about what constitutes a sin. Continue these conversations as your child grows older. Initiate discussions about the temptations in your child's life. How can those temptations be addressed? As children grow into adolescence they are faced with many decisions and temptations, and they need their parent's guidance to help them make good choices and avoid sin.
- As a family, plan to participate in parish celebrations of reconciliation during Lent and Advent each year. If you make this a serious commitment, and plan ahead, even your teen-agers can arrange their schedules accordingly.
- What is your attitude toward this sacrament? As a parent, if you participate in the sacrament of reconciliation, your child will most likely want to do so as well.

Frequently Asked Questions About First Communion

What does the Church ask of parents in sacramental preparation?

The Church views the role of parents in the religious formation of children as both a privilege and an obligation. When you presented your child to the Church for baptism, you were distinctly reminded that you have the responsibility of "raising them in the practice of the faith" (Rite of Baptism). This obligation and privilege extend to sacramental preparation.

How will I know if my child is ready for Eucharist?

The first question to ask yourself is, "Is my child at Mass regularly?" If your child is at Mass each Sunday and is capable of paying attention to what is going on, that's the first step. The second question to ask is, "Does my child have a sincere desire to share in the Eucharist?" When children attend mass regularly, eventually they want to participate more fully. This is a logical progression that leads the child to ask, "When can I go to communion?" Finally, ask yourself, "Does my child understand that this consecrated bread and wine is truly the body and blood of Jesus?"

Are there prayers my child should learn?

As children come to readiness for first communion, they should be learning the acclamations, responses, and prayers of the Mass. Initially, a child will learn to pray the "Our Father" with the rest of the assembly at Mass. Then gradually, a child should be able to sing or pray the Holy, Holy, Holy, the memorial acclamation, and the great amen, and other brief responses. Children can learn these simply by being at Mass and hearing them every week.

How should my child behave at mass?

As your child now begins to share in the Eucharist, remind him/her that he/she is an important part of the community gathered at Mass. Encourage your child to participate in the music and prayers, rather than bring along a prayer book or toys. Remind your child that at Mass we sing, and pray, and we are quiet sometimes. Help your child to receive the Eucharist with reverence. Even the most agreeable and well-behaved children need to be reminded of these things often. Practice and anticipate the sacrament by having your child come forward in the Communion line with arms crossed over their chest, like an "X", to receive a blessing from the priest or Eucharistic Minister. Also, all children who have not yet received their first communion are asked to come forward for a blessing by the priest right before the closing hymn.

What is the Church's rule about fasting before going to communion?

Church law requires Catholics to fast from food and beverages for one hour before going to communion.

Other rules to keep in mind:

Please no food or drink in the main sanctuary. Silence cell phones. Stay for the whole Mass. The Mass is ended at the final hymn and the priest leaves the worship space. Please park only in designated parking spaces with painted lines/tires stops. Avoid all curbs and grassy areas at the outer edges of the property. Dress and behavior code is on a separate sheet and includes the proper dress code for First Communion.

Parent Commitment for Sacrament Preparation of their Child

Please read carefully before signing.

I attended the Parent Sacramental Preparation Information meeting on (circle one)

- Sept. 16, 2009 (for Grades 6-12)
- Sept. 20, 2009 (Spanish for all grades)
- Sept. 23, 2009 (for Grades 2-5) other _____

I received a copy of the Sacramental Preparation Packet containing the required forms and schedules.

I understand the mutual support and partnership that my family is participating in through the St. Agnes Parish Community.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION IS FOR "A WAY OF LIFE." I understand that sacramental preparation is for *a way of life*, not for a single event, and that it is most effective when a sacramental life is modeled in the family. I am willing to make the commitment to participate regularly at Sunday liturgies with my child in addition to us both attending all related sacramental and faith formation meetings, classes, retreats, and rehearsals to the best of our ability. I realize that failure to support my child's preparation in the home or excessive absences (as determined by the Faith Formation Director) could result in postponement of a sacrament until a later time.

FAITH FORMATION IS A "LIFETIME PROCESS." I understand that regardless of sacraments received or yet to be received, I promise to continue my child's faith formation because I understand that faith formation is a lifetime process of ongoing conversion at every age.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Print) Parent Name _____

(Print) Student's Full Name _____



St. Agnes Parish

7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL 34120
239-592-1949 ☩ Fax: 239-325-1150 ☩ www.StAgnesNaples.org

2009-2010 Communion Certificate Information Form

2009-2010 Formulario de información para el CERTIFICADO DE LA COMUNION

Parents: Please print neatly and do not leave any lines blank to ensure that your child's Communion certificate will be recorded and printed accurately. Return to the Faith Formation Office by

Oct 21, 2009. *Padres: Por favor escriba en letra de imprenta, claramente, y no deje ningún espacio en blanco, así el certificado de Comunión tendrá la información correcta. Devuélvalo a la oficina antes del 21 de Octubre*

Student attends (circle one) St. Agnes Faith First For Families, Home School, or
El estudiante asiste a (encierra en un circulo la respuesta apropiada) ST. Agnes La Fe Primero para Familias, o

Catholic School (name) _____
escuela católica (nombre)

Student's Full Name: _____ Grade: _____
Nombre completo del estudiante Grado

Date of Birth ___/___/___ Born in (City) _____, State _____
Fecha de Nacimiento Ciudad de nacimiento Pais Estado

Date of Baptism ___/___/___ Church of Baptism _____
Fecha de Bautismo Nombre de la Iglesia donde fue bautizado

Church of Baptism mailing address: _____
Dirección de la Iglesia donde fue bautizado

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
Ciudad Estado Area postal

Father's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Nombre del padre Apellido

Mother's First Name: _____ Maiden: _____ Last Name: _____
Nombre de la madre Apellido de soltera Apellido