



St. Agnes Parish

2011-2012 Handbook for Confirmation Preparation (Year 1)

Diocese of Venice Policy: For students who have already received Baptism, 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion (or currently, Confirmation preparation begins in grade 9, culminating in the reception of the sacrament at the end of grade 10.

Year 1 = Students attend at least 15 youth nights and at least one retreat.

Year 2 = Students attend at least 15 youth nights, at least one retreat, and monthly youth-only sacrament preparation sessions. No more than 1 absence from sacrament preparation sessions is allowed.

Catholic school & home school students who wish to receive their sacraments at St. Agnes Church, are required to attend sacrament sessions only. (Their faith formation (youth group) obligation is met through their school/home religion class.) Attendance is imperative. Parent meetings, retreats, and rehearsals are just as important. Some events require at least one parent or guardian to attend with their student, as noted on the schedule. Students must also attend at least 15 Youth Group sessions (optional for Catholic School students). We hope that this experience enriches your teen, your family, and sponsor.

Parent's Checklist for Confirmation (Year 1)

1. Sign-in at today's meeting and make sure you have these items before leaving:
 - Completed family registration as members of St. Agnes parish.
 - Completed student registration for Faith Formation/Sacrament Preparation.
 - Calendar of sessions.
 - Handbook on Confirmation. (Year 1)
 - Completed Parent Commitment for Sacrament Preparation of their Student form (which is the last page of the handbook, please sign and return this form tonight).
 - Diocesan required knowledge for Confirmation booklet.
2. Please submit the following items by the next meeting **Nov. 1**
 - A copy of your child's Baptismal certificate.
 - A copy of your student's First Holy Communion certificate.
 - If you did not attend Youth Group at St. Agnes last year, a letter (or report card) from the church/school your child attended religious education last year (**2010-11** school year).
 - Pay fees. There is a sacrament fee of \$75 payable to St. Agnes Parish. Or make an appointment with the Director today if you need a partial of full scholarship.
3. Remember to enroll next August for Year 2 Confirmation Sessions.

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.

St. Agnes Church 50-50 Partnership with Families of Teens

The clergy & 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 (youth group) 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 Youth Nights, we plan meaningful activities designed to deepen your teen’s connection to the Catholic faith.
- 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 various sessions, retreats, special events, 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, to the best of our ability, to:

- 1) Actively participate in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation on a regular basis.
- 2) Support our teen’s attendance of Parish and Diocesan youth events.
- 3) We promise to attend any additionally required meetings, rehearsals, and retreats necessary to our teen’s faith formation and sacrament preparation. This includes keeping in communication with the Faith Formation office regarding tardiness, absences, and special needs.
- 4) At least once each month, as a family, set aside time to discuss whatever topic is assigned by the Sacrament preparation catechist.
- 5) Seek ways to live and share our Catholic faith every day.
- 6) 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 your commitment to one another.

Parent Commitment for Sacrament Preparation of their Child

Please read carefully before checking off & signing at the bottom.

Return the bottom portion to the Faith Formation Office tonight.

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.

I received a copy of the Diocesan required knowledge for Confirmation candidates so that I may help my child grow in wisdom and knowledge of the sacrament in which he/she is preparing.

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.

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

August 28 (Spanish) Sept. 26 other_____

By signing below, I understand and agree with all the above statements.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Print) Parent Name _____

(Print) Student's Full Name _____

Diocese of Venice Confirmation Study Guide

Seven Sacraments

Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing

- Anointing of the Sick
- Reconciliation

Sacraments of Vocations:

- Matrimony
- Holy Orders

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
- You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Four Marks of the Catholic Church:

- One
- Holy
- Catholic
- Apostolic

Twelve Apostles:

- Peter
- Bartholomew
- Andrew
- Matthew
- James
- James the Less
- John
- Jude
- Philip
- Simon
- Thomas
- Judas

Precepts of the church:

1. Assist at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation, doing no unnecessary physical work on those days.
2. Confess serious sins at least once a year.
3. Receive Holy Communion frequently and, at a minimum, during the Easter season.
4. Fast and abstain on days appointed.
5. Contribute to the support of the church.
6. Observe the laws of the church concerning marriage and give religious training to one's children by word, example, and use of parish schools or catechetical programs.
7. Join in the missionary spirit and work of the church.

Ten Commandments:

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Beatitudes:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
- Blessed are they who mourn, they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, they will inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they will be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the clean of heart, they will see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called children of God.
- Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Holy Days of Obligation:

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)
- Ascension (40 days after Easter)
- Assumption of Mary (August 15)
- All Saints Day (November 1)
- Immaculate Conception (December 8)
- Christmas (December 25)

Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Clothe the naked.
- Care for the sick.
- Help the imprisoned.
- Bury the dead.

Liturgical Year:

- Advent
- Christmas Time
- Ordinary Time
- Lent
- Triduum
- Easter Time
- Ordinary Time

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- Share knowledge.
- Give advice to those who need it.
- Comfort those who suffer.
- Be patient with others.
- Forgive those who hurt you.
- Give correction to those who need it.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

The Rosary:

Joyful Mysteries

(Mondays, and Sundays in Advent)

- The Annunciation (Lk 1:30-33)
- The Visitation (Lk 1:50-53)
- The Birth of Our Lord (Lk 2:10-11)
- Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:29-32)
- The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:48-52)

Sorrowful Mysteries

(Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays in Lent)

- The Agony of Jesus in the Garden (Mt 26:38-39)
- The Scourging at the Pillar (Jn 19:1)
- The Crowning of Thorns (Mk 15:16-17)
- The Carrying of the Cross (Jn 19:17)
- The Crucifixion (Jn 19:28-30)

Glorious Mysteries

(Wednesday, Saturdays, Sundays)

- Resurrection of Jesus (Mk 16:6-8)
- The Ascension of Jesus into heaven (Acts 1:10-11)
- The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles (Pentecost) (Acts 2:1-4)
- The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
- The Crowning of Mary as queen of heaven

Luminous Mysteries

(Thursdays)

- The Baptism of the Lord (Mk 1:9-11, Mt 3:13-17, Lk 3:21-22)
- The Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-12)
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom and Call to Repentance (Mk 1: 14-ff, Mt 4:12-ff, Lk 4:14-ff, Jn 2:13-ff)
- The Transfiguration (Mk 8:2-8, Mt 17:1-8, Lk 9:28-36)
- The Last Supper and Institution of the Eucharist (Mk 14:22-25, Mt 26:18, Lk 22:15-20)

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- Charity
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Goodness
- Kindness
- Long Suffering
- Humility
- Faithfulness
- Modesty
- Contenance
- Chastity

Capital Sins:

- Greed
- Anger
- Envy
- Lust
- Pride
- Sloth
- Gluttony

Stations of the Cross

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus takes up his cross.
3. Jesus falls the first time.
4. Jesus meets his mother.
5. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
7. Jesus falls the second time.
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.
9. Jesus falls the third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
12. Jesus dies on the cross.
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Theological Virtues:

- Faith
- Hope
- Love

Cardinal Virtues:

- Prudence
- Justice
- Fortitude
- Temperance

Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Rite of Confirmation

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Right Judgment
- Courage
- Knowledge
- Reverence
- Wonder and Awe

-OR-

Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

Parts of the Mass:

Introductory

- Entrance Song
- Greeting
- Penitential Rite
- Gloria
- Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Homily
- Profession of Faith
- General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts
- Prayer over the Gifts
- Preface
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Memorial Acclamation/Great Amen
- Communion Rite: Lord's Prayer
 - Sign of Peace
 - Breaking of the Bread
 - Communion
 - Silence/Song of Praise
- Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rite

- Prayer
- Blessing
- Dismal