

First Communion Preparation - Jan. 23, 2012 Session

Dear Parents,

Congratulation on your child's First Reconciliation. We hope it was a great celebration with your family. So now you're asking, "What's next in my child's preparation for First Holy Communion?"

The answer will come in the next six chapters that Ms. Jeanetta will "coach" as you teach your child. For many parents, it may have been a long time since we sat in a catechism class or read about the Eucharist on our own. I invite you to take time reading "Essay: Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist" on the back of this letter. It is a great summary of the Eucharist and everything we are working toward with our children tonight. The priests, catechists, and community of St. Agnes appreciate and recognize such an important step you are undertaking this year. You all are in our prayers.

As a reminder...Please silence cell phones and refrain from anything that interferes with teaching your child. Please supervise your child at all times and limit the bathroom/drinking fountain trips to the break times out of respect for the flow of the sessions and focus by all. We appreciate everyone arriving on time and welcoming new families to share table space with your family. Those who are bi-lingual will be especially valuable to translate for those who need it tonight. Please sit at the designated tables.

Absences!

If you miss all or a part of a session, you must print the parent and child handouts from the parish website or pick up the handouts from the parish office during the week. You must complete them at home before the next session. Fax or mail the child's homework sheets at the end of each lesson that your family was absent from to the Faith Formation office as your "make-up." FAX: 239-325-1150

Mass Attendance!

Continue to attend Mass as a family. Help your child to participate in the Mass responses, songs, and postures. By this age, children should not be drinking or eating snacks during Mass, nor playing with toys, sleeping, talking loudly, or going to the restroom during Mass. Practice the sign of the cross, genuflecting, and walking in the Communion line with arms crossed over their heart for a blessing by the minister of the Eucharist, Deacon, or Priest. These are "teachable moments" that are not learned in a classroom, but through experiencing the worshipping community of St. Agnes and witnessing the faith of parents. If you do not take your child to Mass, then these will not be learned and your child will not be fully prepared for First Communion.

Tonight's Agenda

- 6:00** **Sign-in. Be seated and read page 1 with your child. Thanks for being on time!**
- 6:10-7:00** **Eucharist Lesson 1: Everyone Arrives for Mass**
- 7:00-7:10** **10 minute break cookie break!**
- 7:10-7:55** **Eucharist Lesson 2: We Listen to the Readings and the Homily**
- 7:55** **Announcements and dismissal.** The next First Communion session is 2/27/12, at 6-8pm. Homework is on the "honor system" which means you are not required to turn it in unless there is an absence.