

St. Agnes † Faith First for Families

September

Welcome Everyone!



Welcome to a new catechetical year and to our new parish center. We have a lot of changes and improvements in our format, beginning tonight. We appreciate your cooperation and respect. Here's what you can expect tonight.

5:45-6:30, Dinner and Check-in. Check-in at the front desk this month only. Starting next month your child's attendance will be taken during class time. Please say grace as a family & enjoy your dinner! The food line is in the main hall and overflow seating is out back under the canopy. Please do not eat in the classrooms. Dinner is a \$10 donation per family, per month.

Restrooms are near the North entrance. Please accompany your child to the restroom and drinking fountain before we begin the opening prayer.

6:45, Music & Prayer. Gather in the main hall to sing and pray. Free childcare for children under 5 is in the Nursery, located in the first door on your left of the large hallway. Be sure to leave your cell phone number in case your child needs you before the session ends.

6:55-7:10, Orientation to Faith First for Families. A short presentation about what to expect at the monthly assemblies and how to be successful at home with your weekly studies will get you off to a great year of growing in faith as a family! You're going to love it!

Workbooks and Homework. Grade-level workbooks will be distributed next month along with new parent guides for those who need them. Homework sheets will be given out at dismissal in the main hall each month. We will break up into grade-level classes in October and the parents will remain in the main hall for the adult session. Parents are not allowed to "drop off" their child or leave early without the director's consent.

7:15-7:45, Protecting God's Children is a NEW comprehensive program that teaches children how to trust their instincts, recognize uncomfortable situations, and know when to go to a trusted adult for help. Parents and children will have separate simultaneous presentations:

- Parent presentation is in the main church.
- Children will remain in the main hall and will be chaperoned by the FaithFirst for Families volunteers who are already background checked by the FBI and trained in Safe Environment by the Diocese of Venice.
- **IMPORTANT: If you do not want to participate in this portion of the program, you must fill out an "Opt-Out" form and return it to the check-in desk before leaving.**
- Parents will return to the main hall and join their child for the closing prayer and dismissal.

7:50 Closing Prayer & Dismissal. Please stay for the final blessing & announcements. Returning children from last year who submitted chapter tests over the summer will get their Tickets for Treasures. The Treasure Table opens next month!!!

Announcements

Our parish designs and plans monthly events for the entire community of faith! We encourage you to volunteer and participate in as many of these events as possible. Look for more details in the church bulletin and on the Narthex communications board. **Save the dates:**

Oct. 1 – St. Francis Pet Blessing, 2 pm

Oct. 16-International Festival, 2-5pm

Oct. 30 – Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Celebration & Safety Event, 5pm

Nov. 12-13 – Ladies of St. Agnes Weekend Bazaar

Dec. 10 – Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 18 – Live Nativity, 5pm (in English & Spanish)

Middle School “EDGE” Youth Group meets every Thursday night in the Youth Room, 6-7:45pm.

High School “LifeTeen” Youth Group meets every Sunday night, immediately following the 5pm Mass, 6-8pm in the Youth Room. Plus, other dates are planned throughout the year for the teens including social nights, service, & diocesan events and are published in the weekly bulletin. Registration never closes! Friends always welcome!

Teachers & Helpers. Our ministry still needs adult volunteers for a variety of our programs & special events. Please inquire at the Reception desk after the closing prayer or contact Ivy O’Malley in the parish office during the week.

Information. All forms and parish information including the weekly bulletin is posted at our parish website: www.StAgnesNaples.org

SACRAMENTS! Mandatory Parent Meeting for those preparing for Sacraments

Sept. 26 – 6-8pm, parent & student meeting for those who are preparing to receive First Holy Communion in May or in their first or second year of Confirmation preparation.

September Homework

Workbooks and family guides will be distributed next month. If you were in the program last year, you will use your *At Home Family Guide* again and every student gets a new workbook according to their grade level. *Spanish Family Guides* change according to grade level every year, also.

This Week: No worries! There is never homework on the week of the Family Assembly!

Week 1: Read the 50/50 Partnership handout and sign it as a family. Put it in a prominent place in your home where you can be reminded often of your commitment to grow in faith together this year. Since more than half of our families are new to our ministry, we want everyone to take some time this month getting acquainted with the FaithFirst website. Start by going to the **Faith Formation K-5** link on the parish website at www.StAgnesNaples.org Next, click on the **FaithFirst** link. Kids of all ages will enjoy the free online games, bible stories, and chapter review tests. There is a great section for Parents, too! We hope everyone in your family enjoys it!

Week 2 & 3: Find the “Question of the Week” printed in the parish bulletin. You will usually find it on the inside front cover of the bulletin in a brown box under the Mass Readings. Pull out your family bible and re-read the Gospel reading. Discuss your answers to the question(s) as a family. If you did not get a bulletin at Mass you can read or print a copy from the parish website. **EARN TREASURE TICKETS!** Be sure to email the Faith Formation Office with your family’s response to the question to earn a Treasure Ticket that can be cashed in for prizes at the next family assembly. The homework email is: FaithFormation@StAgnesNaples.org

If you do not have internet access and cannot borrow a friend/relatives computer or get to the public library, write out your family’s responses to the question of the week and bring it to next month’s assembly to earn your tickets!

If you need assistance call the office at 592-1949. We are here to serve you.

St. Agnes Church 50-50 Partnership

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 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, to the best of our ability, to:

- 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. This includes keeping in communication with the Faith Formation office regarding tardiness, absences, and special needs.
- 3) At least once each week, as a family, set aside time to discuss the at-home themes.
- 4) 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 your 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. Les damos la bienvenida a todas las familias para que participen, sin importar su situación.
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 preparación para la misa .
3. St. Agnes ofrece un currículo de formación en la fe de calidad, aprobado por el Obispo local y fiel a las enseñanzas católicas. Les prometemos proporcionarle el entrenamiento adecuada a nuestros catequistas.
4. Durante las asambleas familiares mensuales planeamos actividades significativas encaminadas a profundizar la colección de su familia a la fe católica. St. Agnes provee los recursos necesarios como bíblicos, libros de trabajo para cada grado, guía para los padres, material adicional, 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 están preparando para los Sacramentos de Reconciliación, Confirmación, y Primera Comunión. Esto incluye instrucción mensual, libros para el estudiante, reflexiones para la casa, práctica, y celebración de estos ritos de iniciación en la Iglesia Católica.
6. St. Agnes provee varias oportunidades para que su familia sirva al enfermo, al pobre, al despojado, y al que sufre dentro y fuera de la familia parroquial.
7. En resumen, la parroquia de St. Agnes se dedica a Usted, la comunidad de creyentes, así todos pueden experimentar conversión y crecimiento en la fe católica.

La familia _____ promete poner lo mejor de nuestra parte:

1. Participar en la Misa Dominical y Días Festivos de Obligación.
2. Asistir a la Asamblea de Familia mensual con espíritu de cooperación para compartir en la comida, la oración y actividades. Prometemos asistir a reuniones, prácticas y retiros necesarios para la preparación de nuestros hijos en la formación en la fe y preparación para los Sacramentos. Esto incluye manteneros en comunicación con la ofician de formación religiosa. Respecto a ausencias, necesidades especiales y llegadas tarde.
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 católica todos los días.
5. Sin importar los sacramentos recibidos o por recibir--Bautismo, Confirmación, Primera Comunión-- prometemos continuar la formación en la fe de nuestra familia porque entendemos que la formación en la fe es un proceso de por vida de constante conversión a cada edad.

En familia, por favor lea y firme este compromiso

Colóquela en un lugar visible en su casa como un recordatorio de nuestro compromiso del uno al otro.

St. Agnes Faith Formation Expectations for the 2011-2012 Catechetical Year

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

- +Attend Mass on a regular basis, including Holy Days.
- +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 sheets from our website so you won't fall behind.
- +Let us know if you're 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 FaithFormation@StAgnesNaples.org. We usually reply back to at least one of your emails each month so please provide 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 received, your child will get a TREASURE TICKET that can be cashed in for prizes at the 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 unified community.

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

- +Make a special dinner or even just a yummy dessert to make your lesson night more rewarding! Make it fun and enjoy sharing your faith with one another!
- +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 & missed homework may delay reception of Reconciliation & First Communion at the discretion of the Director. Stay in contact with the office regarding your situations that affect your participation & we will help in whatever way we can.

See God's presence in all you do! Live your faith, share your faith, & 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 ministries for adults & students of every age...and more are being added all the time!

St. Agnes Parish † Faith First for Families FAQs

Let's begin with the most common question asked...

When does my child receive First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion? Preparation the sacraments is a minimum of two years. For those in public elementary school it looks like this:

Year 1 = Faith First for Families

Year 2 = Faith First for Families + sacrament preparation classes (& must be age 7 by Sept. 1.)

Check the class schedule for specific class & ceremony dates & times, as they tend to change each year. Parents attend all sessions with their child. Complete sacrament policies are on the website.

What is Faith First for Families? St. Agnes has 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, & grade-level classes, parents have a class too. Parents are not allowed to “drop off” their child or leave early without the director’s consent.
- 2) Weekly studies taught by parents in the convenience of their own schedule at home with an online testing & reward system. 1 absence is allowed. Open to children in first grade through fifth grade (kindergarten is optional.)

Why “Whole Family” instead of the “Schoolhouse” method? Here are my favorite quotes:

“Catechesis is a responsibility of the entire Christian community.”

“There are four basic principles underlying Whole Community Catechesis: Faith formation is a lifelong journey; the goal of all catechesis is conversion; the parish itself can be both curriculum and catechist; and vibrant parishes require strong households of faith.”

“Having a format with multi-age faith sharing, building households of faith, reflecting on how & why we gather, & promoting active service and outreach, all members of St. Agnes are supported in their own faith formation and are invited to reclaim their personal & collective role in the formation of other members of our community.”

Does my entire family have to attend every assembly? All family members are highly encouraged to come. When both parents live in the same household, they should both attend. However, in other circumstances, at least one parent/guardian must accompany their child. Older siblings who are in the Youth Group may help serve dinner and assist the teachers so the whole family can be together.

Is there babysitting for my little one? We offer childcare for those under 5. Please leave your cell phone number with the caregiver in case your child needs you.

Will I always be with my student at the assemblies? **NEW THIS YEAR...** During the last half of the assembly the children will be dismissed from the main hall with their grade-level teachers; while the parents remain in the hall for the adult session (unless they are volunteering in the classrooms.) This is not a “drop off” program; parents are not to leave the premises without the director’s consent. Parents will sign out their child from the classroom at the end of the session. Please supervise your child at all other times, even when going to the restroom & water fountain.

Do we celebrate Mass when we come? St. Agnes offers a 5pm Sunday Mass in the main church that resumes in September and usually ends right after Easter/Summer. The FaithFirst assemblies open with a Prayer Service based on the Gospel readings for Sunday’s Mass, which is not the same as Mass.

Where do I check-in? Is dinner included?

FRIDAY FORMAT: NO DINNER ON FRIDAYS, Arrive no later than 7:00pm. Gather in the main hall to begin music and prayer with the whole family. The teachers will take attendance in the classroom and parents will pick up their children at the classroom and sign them out at the end of the night.

SUNDAY and MONDAY ASSEMBLIES: As you arrive each month, you will begin with dinner in the main hall for the first 30 minutes. Dinner is a \$10 donation per family, per month. We will publish the menu in the bulletin in case you have finicky eaters! Be sure to wash up and use the restroom facilities during this time so that your child's full participation in the praying and learning parts of the evening is uninterrupted. If you need assistance, go to the reception desk located between the doors of the main hall; there is no need to "check-in." The teachers will take attendance in the classroom.

What happens after dinner? The children are invited to sing & dance to the opening songs. We hope parents participate by singing too! (If you don't show excitement about your Lord and Savior, how will your children catch on?).

After the prayer service the children will be called up by grade-level and dismissed to their classrooms with their teachers. Parents will remain in the main hall for their own 45 session and be given the monthly homework sheet at the end. Parents will go directly to the child's classroom at the end of the evening to personally sign-out their child. Out of respect for the teacher and learning that is going on, please do not remove your children from the classroom early.

What are classes about? Each month everyone will have the same theme! Your family will attend their own individual class but be learning at their own level. Ideally, your child will complete the chapter-related theme in their workbook during class (and can go home and take the online chapter review to earn a Treasure Ticket.)

When do we get our Treasure Tickets? Treasure Tickets are acknowledged during the family assembly. Anyone who emails the Faith Formation Office their test score or homework summary gets a ticket. Their name & number of tickets earned (usually 3 per month) is shown on the screen in the main hall. 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 weekend or 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 your correct email address on the "FROM" line, 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 to present to the person giving the Treasure Tickets. If you failed to get your Treasure Tickets one month, be sure to get them the next time. Also if you did not complete all your homework for one month, you can complete it for next month and even take the time to completely catch up over the summer break.

How do we know what to do at home? At dismissal all handouts will be available for pickup at the main exits of the hall, with the blue (English) or pink (Spanish) homework instructions. All handouts can be printed from the Faith Formation link on the parish website, if you need another copy.

What if I miss the Monthly Assembly? If you are going to miss all or a part of the monthly assembly, please notify the office as soon as possible so we know how much food to prepare and families to expect. Homework sheets can be printed from the website. 1 absence is allowed; please make an appointment with the Faith Formation director if absences continue.

Do I have to re-enroll next year? Faith formation is a lifelong journey...so YES! Some classes fill up fast so re-enroll early. Registration for the next catechetical year opens in August and classes begin in September.

Expectativas de St. Agnes Para la Catequesis 2011-2012 Formación en la Fe

Siempre haz lo mejor! Haz de esta decisión un compromiso familiar:

- +Atender a misa con regularidad, incluyendo los Días Festivos.
- +Atender a las asambleas de familia juntos—con una sonrisa!
- +Trabajar juntos en la casa a conciencia cada semana.
- +Llamar a la oficina si no puede atender a la asamblea.
- +Imprimir las tareas que faltan de nuestra pagina virtual para no atrasarse.
- +Déjenos saber si esta teniendo alguna dificultad. Nosotros haremos lo posible para ayudarle.

Vaya en línea y tome el examen de la capitulo correspondiente!

Como hacer el examen: Si usted tiene acceso al internet, cuando los niños han terminado con la capitulo correspondiente usted puede tomar el examen asi:

1. Ir a la pagina de web www.FaithFirst.com, click **Kids' Clubhouse (K-3)** or **Kids Only (4-6)**.
2. Escoja **Chapter Review, Legacy Edition**, seleccione el **Grado & Capitulo** apropiado.
3. Siga **las instrucciones** de la pantalla para presentar el examen.
4. Envíe por Email los resultados con el nombre y apellido de sus niños a: FaithFormation@StAgnesNaples.org.

Nosotros usualmente regresamos las respuestas de sus correos electrónicos al menos una vez al mes, por favor provéanos con su dirección electrónica para asegurar la respuesta. Si usted nunca recibe respuesta es probablemente porque no recibimos sus correos así que por favor déjenos saber como le podemos ayudar

5. Por cada examen recibido, su niño recibirá una **BOLOLETA O TIQUETE DEL TESORO** que puede ser intercambiado en la Mesa Del Tesoro el mes siguiente. La mesa se abre al final de la asamblea.
6. **NOTA:** Si su tarea semanal no requiere un examen online asociado (como los de Kindergarten y otros temas litúrgicos) usted puede enviar el email diciendo en las propias palabras del niño lo que el o ella ha aprendido y cual es la actividad o meta de su familia esa semana. Por favor no hacer las áreas de capitulo es que no han sido todavía asignadas, es mejor hacerlas en el mismo sitio y con el mismo paso que todo el resto de la comunidad.

Nunca se de por vencido! Decida una rutina como familia, escoja el día y hora.

- +Haga una cena especial o un postre delicioso para hacer la lección mas divertida y mas gratificante!
- Haga este momento de compartir la fe con su familia, un momento especial.
- +Escoja un sitio de tareas en su casa o si prefiere cambie de sitio cada semana!
- +Si usted se distrae un mes con la asignatura comience de nuevo!
- +Recuerde que usted es el mejor profesor de la Fe del estudiante. Estadísticas demuestran que los niños aprenden mas de usted que de el mismo salón.

Ausencias excesivas

& no hacer la tarea podrían retrasar el recibimiento de la Reconciliación y de la Primera Comunión que quedaría a discreción del Director. Manténgase en contacto con la oficina para ayudarle en la situación que afecta su participación y nosotros le ayudaremos.

Vea el amor de Dios en cada cosa que usted hace!

Viva su fe, compártala y continúe creciendo en ella, siempre. No olvide seguir viniendo... Nuestro Camino en la fe nunca termina. La iglesia ofrece variedad de Ministerios para personas de todas las edades... y siguen creciendo mas con su presencia!

Iglesia de St. Agnes † Formación Para Familias

Preguntas y Respuestas

La pregunta mas común...

Cuando mi hijo/a recibe su Primera Reconciliación y su primera Comunión? Preparación para los sacramentos tiene un mínimo de dos años. Para los niños de escuela elemental el programa es así:

Año 1 = Formación Primero Para Familias

Año 2 = Formación Primero Para Familias + clases de preparación sacramental (debe tener 7 años en Sept. 1.)

Mire el horario de clases para fechas específicas, días y horas de ceremonias, pues tienden a cambiar cada año. Los padres tienen que venir a las asambleas con los niños. Las regulaciones completas de los sacramentos están en nuestra página virtual.

Que es Formación Para Familias? St. Agnes tiene "Catequesis Completa para Familias" lo que llamamos "FAITH FIRST FOR FAMILIES" (FFF). FFF incluye la familia entera se reúne una vez al mes entre los meses de Septiembre a Mayo. Registración es durante el mes de Agosto y hay dos partes para el programa FFF:

1) Asambleas o reuniones mensuales para la familia entera que incluyen cena, oración, & clases dividida en edades específicas, los padres toman también clase. No es permitido dejar a los niños solos o salir temprano sin el consentimiento del director.

2) Estudios semanales en la conveniencia de un horario propio en casa, con exámenes virtuales y un sistema de premios. Solo una ausencia es permitida. Abierto a los niños desde primer a quinto grado (kindergarten es opcional.)

Porque el método "Toda la Familia" en lugar del método "Casa escuela"? Aquí están mis citas favoritas:

"La Catequesis es una responsabilidad de la comcapitulo entera."

"Hay 4 principios en la Comcapitulo Catequista: Formación en la Fe es un aprendizaje de toda la vida; La meta de todo catequista es la conversión; La Parroquia en si misma puede ser ambas Curriculum y Catequesis; Parroquias vibrantes requieren los dos, Curriculum y Catequesis."

"Tener un formato de gente de todas las edades, compartiendo la fe, construyendo familias en la fe, refleja como o porque nos reunimos para promocionar el servicio activo de ayuda. Todos los miembros de St. Agnes son apoyados en su propia fe y son invitados a tomar un papel activo apoyando a otros miembros de la comcapitulo.

Mi familia entera tiene que atender a todas las asambleas? Todos los miembros de la familia están invitados a participar. Cuando ambos padres viven en la misma casa, ambos deben atender. Si hay alguna circunstancia al menos uno de ellos o un guardián debe de atender a clase con el niño. Otros jóvenes que forman parte del Youth Group o grupo de jóvenes pueden servir de ayuda a los profesores para que así toda la familia pueda estar junta.

Hay servicio de guardería para pequeñitos? Ofrecemos cuidado de niños para menores de 5 años. Por favor deje su número telefónico a la persona que los cuida en caso de que lo necesite.

Estaré siempre con mi estudiante durante la asamblea? Nuevo este año... Durante la ultima mitad de la asamblea los niños serán excusados y saldrán del salón principal con su profesora de nivel de grado; mientras los padres se quedan para atender a la sesión de adultos (al menos que estos sean voluntarios en un salón). Este no es un programa donde los padres dejan a los niños solos. Si un padre necesita salir tiene que hablar con el Director del Programa de Formación en la Fe. Los Padres firmaran una lista al recoger a los niños al final de la sesión. (Por favor supervise a sus niños todo el tiempo incluyendo a el baño y la fuente de agua.)

Se celebra misa cuando venimos a la asamblea? St. Agnes ofrece misa el domingo a las 5pm en la iglesia principal. Esta misa se da desde Septiembre hasta después de la Semana Santa/verano. La Asamblea de Formación en la Fe, abre con un servicio de oración que tiene como base la lectura del Evangelio de la misa del Domingo pero no es la misma misa.

Donde registro mi asistencia? Esta la cena incluida?

PARA LAS PERSONAS QUE ATIENDEN EL VIERNES: NO HAY CENA. Hay que ser puntuales. No se puede llegar después las 7:00pm. Se reúnen en el salón principal y comienza con música y oración toda la familia reunida. Los profesores tomaran asistencia en la clase y los padres recogerán los niños y los firmaran sus nombres antes de salir del salón al finalizar la clase.

ASAMBLEAS DE DOMINGO Y LUNES: Tan pronto usted llega cada mes, habrá una cena en el salón principal por los primeros 30 min. La cena sugiere una donación de \$10 por familia por mes. Publicaremos el menú en el boletín para su conocimiento. Asegúrese de usar el baño y lavar sus manos durante este momento, para asegurar sin interrupción las oraciones y aprendizaje del niño. Si usted necesita asistencia, vaya a la recepción localizada entre las puertas del salón principal. No necesita firmar las profesoras tomaran la asistencia.

Que sigue después de la cena? Los niños están invitados a cantar y bailar con las canciones del inicio. Esperamos que los padres participen también con su canto. (Si usted no muestra emoción hacia Nuestro Señor y Salvador, como espera que sus niños lo hagan?).

Después de la Oración los niños serán llamando por nivel de grado y ellos Irán a su salón de clase con sus profesores. Los padres esperan en el salón principal por siguientes 45 minutos. Una página de tareas serán dadas mensualmente. Por respeto a los profesores y al aprendizaje de los niños estos no pueden salir temprano.

De que se tratan las clases? Cada mes el tema será el mismo para todos! Su familia atenderá su propia clase pero el aprendizaje será en su propio nivel. Idealmente su niño completara la capitulo relacionada al tema de su libro de tareas durante la clase (asi puede ir a la casa a tomar el examen virtual/chapter review para ganar un Premio/Tiquete del Tesoro.)

Cuando recibimos los Tiquetes del Tesoro? Los Tiquetes del Tesoro son reconocidos durante la asamblea de familia. Todos los estudiantes que envían los exámenes a Formación Para Familia reciben tiquete. El nombre y número de tiquetes ganados, son usualmente 3 por mes. El nombre del niño aparecerá en la pantalla del salón principal. Si su numero de tiquetes es incorrecto o el nombre del niño no esta en la lista nosotros confiamos en usted y el puede acercarse y recibir su premio. No queremos que hayan lagrimas por esta razón!. Muchas familias mandan los resultados de los exámenes durante el mismo día o fin de semana por eso el resultado no aparece en la pantalla. Usualmente usted recibirá al menos una confirmación a su correo que hemos recibido el resultado de su examen. Si usted no escribe su dirección de email correcta en la línea que dice "FROM", la respuesta no será recibida. Si la información del niño no puede es transmitida por favor déjenos saber. Si usted no tiene email, su niño puede traer el libro con la tarea completa se lo presenta a la persona que da los Tiquetes del Tesoro. Si usted no recibió los tiquetes un mes asegúrese de reclamarlos el mes siguiente. Si usted no completo la tarea durante el mes, la puede completar el mes siguiente o puede des atrasarse durante las vacaciones del verano.

Como saber que hacer en casa? A la salida las instrucciones para tareas estarán listas para ser recogidas en las salidas principales del salón, con página azul (para Ingles) o rosado (para español). Todas las tareas e instrucciones pueden ser impresas desde el link de Faith Formation que esta en la página virtual de la parroquia en caso tal de que usted necesite otra copia.

Que pasa si no pude asistir a la asamblea mensual? Si usted se va a perder algo o una parte de la asamblea mensual por favor notifique a la oficina tan pronto como sea posible. Para saber cuantas familias podemos esperar y que tanta comida tenemos que preparar. Las paginas de tareas pueden ser impresas desde nuestra pagina virtual. 1 ausencia es permitida; por favor haga una cita con el director del programa de Formación en la Fe si las ausencias continúan.

Tenemos que inscribirnos de Nuevo? La formación en la fe es un camino que dura toda la vida...la respuesta es SI! Algunas clases se llenan muy rápido así que tienen que reinscribirse. Las inscripciones para el próximo año catequético abre en Agosto y clases comienzan en Septiembre.

Teaching Touching Safety Quick Reference Guide™



Point 1: Teaching about the Private Body Parts

Children are naturally curious, and they have questions about their bodies. Children who are not provided adequate answers from their parents, guardians, or other safe adults are more vulnerable to abuse. Teaching children about their body parts is important to the developmental process.

Point 2: Who are Safe Friends and Safe Adults

Children, by nature, trust people—even people they don't know. This trust is what attracts people to children—people with both good and bad intentions. How can you, as a parent or caring adult, maintain a child's trusting innocence while also keeping the child safe? For the purposes of teaching touching safety, safe friends and safe adults are people who:

- Won't hurt the child without a good reason and won't confuse or scare the child intentionally; and
- Are sure to respect the child's wishes and the wishes and the rules of the child's parents, guardians, and caretakers when it comes to personal safety—including touching safety.

Point 3: The Difference Between Safe and Unsafe Touches

Safe Touches

One way a child can tell if someone is safe is by observing how the person touches others. Safe friends and safe adults touch children in safe ways and not in ways that are scary or confusing. Safe friends and safe adults don't touch children in ways that seem strange, or that hurt without a good reason. You should then explain *why* these touches are safe. They are touches that have a good purpose, are not intended to hurt, and are familiar and safe.

Unsafe Touches

An unsafe touch is any touch that is meant to hurt or scare someone. Hitting, punching, tripping, kicking, and spitting are examples of unsafe touches. In addition to these examples, parents, guardians, or other safe adults must also explain that touching private body parts can also be an unsafe touch. Let your child know that any touch that is new, scary, or confusing—or a touch that starts out okay but becomes scary or confusing—may be an unsafe touch. Teach children to trust their own instincts and to speak up when something makes them uncomfortable.



Point 4: Teaching Children to Identify Their Special Safe Adults

A child's life may include many, many safe friends and safe adults. That's why it is important for a child to know about special safe adults. Most people who are considered safe adults do not have the right to see or touch a child's private body parts for any purpose. Once children understand *safe friends and safe adults* and *safe and unsafe touches*, you must explain the specific meaning of *special safe adults*.

Parents, guardians, or other safe adults must begin by identifying your child's special safe adults. Establish the criteria for determining your child's special safe adults by asking yourself these two questions:

1. "Who, other than myself, would respect my child's physical safety and respect my wishes regarding my child's safety—including the safety of his or her private body parts?"
2. "Of these people, who might ever be put into a position to see or touch my child's private body parts for the purpose of helping keep my child clean or healthy?"

Point 5: Teaching What to Do if Touched in an Unsafe Manner

Teach your child a simple rule for what to do if someone tries to touch him or her in an unsafe way. The child must send a clear signal to any child or adult whose behavior is unsafe—a signal that unsafe behavior will not be tolerated. A child needs to know that any time someone tries to touch his or her private body parts or tries to get the child to touch the private body parts of the other person, the child should say words that mean "No!" and then should tell the child's mother or father or another safe adult as soon as possible.

Instruct young children to run away if the touching involves private body parts or if they don't feel safe for any other reason. Let children know that you will believe them, and that they will not be in any trouble for saying "No!" and running away. Tell older children to immediately get away from the person who touched them inappropriately. This may mean walking away or backing away from the person, or it may mean altogether leaving the location of the unsafe person.

Parents, guardians, and caring adults should remember that most children do not lie about abuse. So, when a child discloses abuse—directly or indirectly (such as telling about a friend who is being hurt by someone)—it is important to provide support for the child. By following some simple rules, you can assure children that they are safe and that telling was the right thing to do:

1. **Let children talk.**
2. **Avoid displays of shock or disgust.**
3. **Respect the child's privacy.**
4. **Address the child's feelings and let him or her know that you trust the child and that the story will be investigated.**
5. **Be honest with the child about what will happen next.**
6. **Do not scold the child.**
7. **Get immediate medical attention if necessary.**
8. **Get counseling/therapy for the child.**
9. **Don't be surprised or upset if the child reports the incident to someone outside of the family.**



Point 6: Teaching "No Secrets"

Communication is necessary to prevent abuse. It is difficult for children to talk about child sexual abuse—even children who understand and practice touching safety. It is not uncommon for children to keep abuse hidden, and child molesters rely on this secrecy.

That's why you should establish this important point:

Your child can tell you about anything that makes him or her feel unsafe—even if someone told him or her to keep it a secret or threatened the child if he or she told.

Assure your child that you will listen to him or her and not get angry, and that your child's safety is your first priority.

VIRTUS® is registered trademark of National Catholic Services, LLC. ("National Catholic") in the United States. Protecting God's Children® and the Teaching Touching Safety Quick Reference Guide™ are trademarks of National Catholic. National Catholic has licensed use of its Protecting God's Children® programs to the Diocese of _____ ("Diocese"). National Catholic owns the copyrights in the artwork and substantive text appearing in this brochure. In addition, National Catholic has authorized the Diocese to distribute the artwork and text in this brochure to employees and volunteers of the Diocese. Neither the artwork nor text may be reproduced or further distributed in any form or manner, without the prior written permission of National Catholic. Please feel free to contact National Catholic for more information about its products and services. You may contact:

Pat Neal
VIRTUS Programs
321 S. Boston Ave, Suite 900
Tulsa, OK 74103
888-847-8870

©2002-2008 by National Catholic Services, LLC. All rights reserved.

Please keep in mind that this quick reference guide is designed to summarize and highlight many of the key points of the Teaching Touching Safety Guide™. Please consult the full Guide for all relevant information.



National Catholic Services, LLC

Protecting God's Children®

Teaching Touching Safety Quick Reference Guide™

