

ST AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH

Religious Education Handbook

School Year 2022-2023





ST. AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. AGNES PARISH

REV. WILLIAM P. SAUNDERS
Pastor

REV. PETER MCSHURLEY
Parochial Vicar

REV. ANTHONY PINIZZOTTO
Priest in Residence

REV. STEVEN OETJEN
Priest in Residence

LISA OROSA
Director of Faith Formation
dff@saintagnes.org

BERNADETTE MICHAEL
Religious Education Assistant
faithformation@saintagnes.org

ANA LISA PIÑON
RCIA Coordinator
analisa.pinon@arlingtondiocese.org

JOAN BIEHLER
Child Protection Coordinator
protect@saintagnes.org

JOHN MALLONEE
Director of Charity
charity@saintagnes.org

1910 N. Randolph St., Arlington, VA 22207

Main: 703.525.1166

www.saintagnes.org

Religious Education Office: 703.527.1129

MISSION STATEMENT

Called by our Lord Jesus Christ, and strengthened by His Word and Sacraments, we strive to be faithful missionary disciples in Jesus Christ, sharing His love with one another and all in need.

CORE VALUES

Communion: Uniting ourselves with Jesus and other baptized Christians in the Church, which has its source and summit in the Eucharist.

Holiness: Embracing the "light, love and limitless possibility" communicated by the Holy Spirit and consecrating ourselves to doing God's will by uniting ourselves to His Son, Jesus Christ.

Joy: Delighting in the peace that comes from knowing God's love and manifesting His love to others in the hope of sharing in His glory.

Service: Promoting the dignity of the human person by sharing our God-given time, talent and treasure with others.

Discipleship: Recognizing that conversion is a gradual and lifelong process, we commit to fostering a deeper relationship with God, living a fully sacramental life, sustaining our faith through ongoing catechesis and witnessing to the love of God through Jesus in our words, actions and relationships, and passing this on to our children.

Dear St. Agnes RE Parents,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Religious Education program at Saint Agnes Catholic Church.

The Saint Agnes RE Office is dedicated to support you in your role as primary educators of your children and supplement the faith formation they receive at home.

We have a comprehensive, robust and proudly Catholic program that includes Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our Kindergartners. The online Faith and Life series by My Catholic Faith Delivered is used in our Flipped Classroom Model in 1st through 7th grades. Our 8th Grade students delve more deeply into the Faith through our Chosen series by Ascension Press. Finally, we have a SPRED (Special Religious Education Development) program for students with special needs.

At your child's Baptism, you asked the Church for eternal life for your child, in doing so you accepted the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith and acknowledged your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. We commend your commitment to keep that promise by enrolling them in Religious Education. **Nothing can replace your example and witness to your love for Christ by your In Person prayerful participation at Sunday Mass and all Holy Days of Obligation, praying as a family, and teaching them that God is the first priority in your life.**

This priority of "God First" is the reason why participation every year in Religious Education is essential. The two year preparation for Sacrament is to ensure the sacredness and reverence needed to encounter Christ in an intimate way for First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Students may avail of the Sacrament of Penance twice a year and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in Holy Hour, pray the Stations of the Cross in Lent, and participate in the Nativity Play for Christmas and in the May Crowning at the end of the year. Service opportunities also abound for students and their families. Meaningful retreats are offered for sacramental year students. Spiritual talks and workshops to help empower parents to fulfill their vocations are also planned.

This Parent-Student Handbook explains our program, philosophy, and expectations. We pray that as we accompany you and your child in this spiritual journey, we may all be blessed with the grace of Jesus Christ, ever Present in our midst and especially Present in the Most Holy Eucharist.

Blessings,

Lisa Orosa
Director of Faith Formation
dff@saintagnes.org
703.527.1129



OUR MISSION & VISION

At St. Agnes, we believe in the inherent dignity of every person, created out of love and for love, in the image and likeness of God.

The goal of St. Agnes Religious Education is to provide opportunities for students and families to have a profound encounter with Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Sunday liturgies, the Sacraments, the Word of God and joyful service to become intentional disciples and ambassadors for Christ.

By living a grace-filled life, nourished by prayer, strengthened by the Sacraments, and transformed by the Word of God, our students and families are empowered to grow in the Faith, deepen their relationship with God, and live out their mission to be the loving and courageous presence of Jesus Christ in a world in need of hope.

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

- St . Catherine of Siena

Saint Agnes Religious Education 2022-23 Highlights

Supporting your child and family in growing in their love for Christ and their lifelong journey of intentional discipleship.

My Catholic Faith Delivered

Online program empower parents to be the primary educators of their children.



Flipped Classroom Model

Students prepare at home and receive in-depth instruction and creative exploration in the classroom.



Prayer & Adoration

Children encounter Our Lord in prayer and at the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



Sacramental Grace

Children are given opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession 2x a year and prepare for the Sacraments.



Priestly Visitations

Children will get the chance to meet and talk with our parish priests during RE class.



Celebrate the Life of the Church

Catholics love to party! Celebrate the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent & holy days with meaningful activities.



Service as a response to God's love

Students and families are able to put their faith into action through various service opportunities throughout the year.





PROGRAM DETAILS

St. Agnes Religious Education

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents have the primary responsibility of raising and training their children in the Faith, as they had promised at their child's Baptism. Through their life example of faithful participation in the liturgical life of the Church, the practice of virtues and prayers, and their own lifelong discipleship, parents exercise the greatest influence on the faith of their children.

St. Agnes Religious Education strives to support parents through a formal, structured and organized program of catechesis and formation. Our program seeks not only to educate students but also to encourage and empower parents in their role as primary educators. Parents are expected to help their children with assigned work, particularly in the completion of online assignments.

Parents are expected to attend mandatory meetings planned according to their children's grade levels.

If there are any custody issues that could impact religious education, please inform the RE Office as soon as possible.

THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM MODEL

The Flipped Classroom model allows children to learn at home (with their parents' supervision) through an online program called My Catholic Faith Delivered. This frees up time in the classroom for the catechist to provide more in-depth instruction, creative exploration and opportunities for meaningful activities and liturgical celebrations.

HOLY HOUR, DEVOTIONS & CONFESSIONS

St. Agnes students will be given several opportunities to grow in prayer and encounter Christ through participation in Holy Hour, Confessions and other seasonal devotions. Families are encouraged to take part in these activities, as well.

Through these activities, RE families are able to celebrate the richness of our Catholic Faith and live according to the liturgical seasons of the Church.

"Parents always influence the moral development of their children, for better or for worse. It follows that they should take up this essential role and carry it out consciously, enthusiastically, reasonably and appropriately."

- Pope Francis

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

ATTENDANCE & BEHAVIOR

Regular and consistent attendance in RE classes is essential in helping students master knowledge of the faith. Students are allowed no more than 4 absences (excused or unexcused). Please inform your catechist or the Director of Faith Formation (DFF) if your child will be absent.

Students are expected to be punctual and prepared for class. Class preparation is primarily done through completion of the online lessons assigned in My Catholic Faith Delivered (MCFD).

Tardiness can be a serious disruption to the class. With only one and a quarter hour per week, we appreciate your cooperation in getting your child/children to class ON TIME each week.

Students are expected to be respectful towards their teacher, their classmates and their environment. If a student consistently causes disruption in the class, a parent may be asked to sit in with their child for the duration of RE classes.

EARLY DISMISSALS & INCLEMENT WEATHER

If a child must leave class early, a parent is required to inform the DFF, Lisa Orosa, at drop off or via email so that the child may be brought to the Front Office for pick-up.

Students will only be released to those persons listed as authorized to pick up.

In case of inclement weather, St. Agnes follows Arlington Public Schools for class cancellations. Please check WTOP for announcements.

DRESS CODE & USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students should dress comfortably according to the weather, but modesty in dress should always be maintained. Articles of clothing with inappropriate images or sayings (drugs, alcohol, profanity, weapons) are not permitted. Short shorts, bare midriffs, (girls) or low hanging pants (boys) are not permitted. Pajamas are unacceptable. Hats must be removed before entering the building.

Students who bring cell phones to class must keep these devices turned off and out of sight. Smart watches and similar devices must also be turned off and out of sight. At no time during class are students permitted to use these devices, unless the catechist requires it for a specific activity (ex. Kahoot). Otherwise, all devices must be turned off. Failure to comply may result in the confiscation of these devices.

EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS

Students are expected to score 70% or higher in their online assessments with MCFD, for both lesson tests and unit tests. Students may retake these tests as necessary. In addition, a midterm and final exam is given to assess a student's knowledge of the subject.

Students must receive a grade of 70% or higher to be promoted to the next grade level.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

CLASSROOM POLICIES

- Students are reminded that all property and possessions found in the classroom are to be left untouched. Desks are not to be moved from their allocated position.
- No food or drink, including chewing gum is allowed in the classrooms because of food allergies.
- Items that could cause injury to a student or others (including dangerous toys) are not permitted in the building.
- Every student has the right and privilege to learn in a classroom where students are well behaved. Similarly, every catechist has the right to teach in such an environment. In the event a student does not exhibit proper behavior, the catechist will call upon the Director of Faith Formation to remove the child from the classroom. If the child does not attempt to refrain from the improper behavior, the DFF will enlist the support of the parents to rectify the situation.
- Students and catechists must comply with the prevailing CDC and Diocesan guidelines to keep our students and staff healthy and safe.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Students preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are required to have two years of in-person instruction and preparation. Several requirements specific to sacramental preparation are detailed in a separate sacramental packet.

The best preparation to receive these sacraments is through faithful attendance of Sunday Mass and holy days of obligation in person. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic Faith because it is Christ Himself, fully Present in the Eucharist whom we receive and nourishes us. The graces received at Mass are immeasurable and necessary in the life of a disciple. The goal of sacramental preparation is to help one live a fully sacramental life.

If you are struggling to make Sunday Mass the foundation and priority in your family's life, please contact our Religious Education Office to discuss how we can help you.

HEALTH, LEARNING DISABILITIES & OTHER CHALLENGES

If your child has a learning disability, behavioral or health related problem, please indicate this on the registration form. All information will remain confidential but will be passed on to the catechist for their assistance in teaching your child. A SPRED program is available for those with special needs.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

All program employees, staff and volunteers who have direct contact with children are subject to a Police background check, fingerprinting and the completion of a VIRTUS seminar.

St. Agnes Religious Education program participates in and adheres to the Safe Environment Training Program – Formation in Christian Chastity and Circle of Grace.

These programs provide age appropriate lessons on the topic of personal safety. Catechists in the program are responsible for administering these lessons, the curriculum for which is provided by the Arlington Diocese.

THE CURRICULUM & STANDARDS OF LEARNING

TEXTBOOKS & ONLINE PROGRAM

Kindergartners are taught using Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

1st through 7th grade use the Faith and Life Series published by Ignatius Press. They will receive the online book through My Catholic Faith Delivered. Children will not receive a textbook; parents will receive instructions to log-in to their account at the beginning of the school year. Students are expected to complete up to Lesson 27 of their online lessons and must receive an assessment grade of 70% or more. They must complete these lessons prior to attending class in order to receive the benefit of the Flipped Classroom model.

8th grade will use Chosen: Your Journey towards Confirmation by Ignatius Press. Students are expected to fully engage in the discussions to get the most out of the class. In addition, 8th graders are expected to review key concepts learned in previous years in order to prepare adequately for a comprehensive Confirmation exam in the Spring. The Confirmation Exam is a necessary requirement to assess the student's ability to give an explanation and defense of their Catholic Faith.

The Special Religious Education Development Program for students with special needs shall use a variety of Adaptive Lessons, primarily from Finding God by Loyola Press.

PRAYERS TO MEMORIZE

1st grade	The Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Guardian Angel Prayer
2nd grade	The Act of Contrition
3rd grade	The St. Michael's Prayer
4th grade	The Act of Faith, Act of Hope, and Act of Charity
5th grade	The Apostles' Creed, and Hail Holy Queen
6th grade	The Divine Mercy
7th grade	The Angelus and Memorare
8th grade	The Come Holy Spirit prayer

"Catechesis is a life-long process of initial conversion, formation, education, and on-going conversion. Through word, worship, service and community, it seeks to lead all God's people to an ever deepening relationship with God who reveals himself in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit."

(Echoing the Gospel for Catechists, Diocese of Grand Rapids)

THE CURRICULUM & STANDARDS OF LEARNING


GRADE	GOALS	THEMES
1 st	To give the child a basic introduction to God, the life of Christ, prayer.	Introduction to the Trinity (emphasis upon Jesus) The plan of salvation and how the child fits into that plan – knowing, loving, and trusting God. Mary, angels, saints; Basic prayers
2 nd	To prepare students for Confession and Holy Communion and help them appreciate God's love as manifested in these two sacraments	Preparation for reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion; Divine law and salvation history; God's mercy and love; Ten Commandments, Creation and Redemption; Order of the Mass and prayer
3 rd	To show the student's membership among God's chosen people and role of the family as an important segment of God's entire family – the Church	God's plan of salvation from Creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church; Importance of Confession, Holy Communion and Mass; Importance of prayer and love of God's law
4 th	To help the students understand their purpose in life and to come to an awareness of God's plan in history and society to lead all to Heaven, our true, eternal home.	God's plan of salvation from sin (salvation history) Our participation in God's plan and how God assists us through His word, law, and the Church
5 th	To help fifth graders acquire a solid and specific knowledge of God and His church through knowledge of the Creed and by making theological distinctions to avoid errors that lead to a loss of love of God.	Thorough study of the Creed and the basic tenets of Catholicism Emphasis on an understanding of theological definitions through the words of the Gospels, the prophets, and the prayers of the church
6 th	To nurture a love for God's law and a love for the Holy Mass as our most perfect prayer to God. Students will also be formed to develop a sense of deep reverence and love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.	God's law (especially the Ten Commandments) as the blueprint for a life of love; Emphasis upon the doctrine of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, especially in the Mass; The interaction between God's law and His gifts of grace given to the faithful to fulfill His law
7 th	To assist the student in learning to treasure the seven sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand the nature of grace in the soul and its relationship to the life of virtue, reason, and faith.	Grace as our link with God and His gift to bring us to eternal life with Him; Grace through the seven sacraments Grace through revelation (prophets, Incarnation, the Church) Grace and the life of virtue
8 th	To help the student know and love the Church as Christ's Body and the Magisterium as the definitive voice of Christ on earth manifested in the person of the Pope. The student will also be formed to trust and be strengthened by the Church to face the confusion of secularism in modern-day society with greater confidence.	Church history – from its founding by Christ and its birth in the Holy Spirit; The four marks of the Church – one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church Fathers, Doctors of the Church, the saints, and the role of the religious and laity in the Modern Age. The structure of the Church – hierarchy, the role of the Magisterium (teaching charism) vocations to the single, married, and religious life

Faith, moved by divine grace and cultivated by the action of the Church, undergoes a process of maturation. Catechesis, which is at the service of this growth, is also a gradual activity."

(General Directory of Catechesis #88)

ST. AGNES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2022-2023 CALENDAR (Tuesday Classes)

September 2022			20 (Class 1)	27 (Class 2) Holy Hour	
October 2022	4 (Class 3) FHC Parent Mtg	11 (Class 4) Confirmation Mtg	18 (Class 5)	25 (Class 6)	
November 2022	1 (Class 7) Holy Day of Obligation	8  <u>NO</u> RE Class Arlington PS Holiday	15 (Class 8) Gr. K & 1 Mtg	22 <u>NO</u> RE Class Thanksgiving Break	29 (Class 9)
December 2022	6 (Class 10)	13 (Class 11) Christmas Pageant	20 <u>NO</u> RE Class Christmas Holiday	27 <u>NO</u> RE Class Christmas Holiday	
January 2023	3 (Class 12)	10 (Class 13) Gr. 3 & 4 Mtg	17 (Class 14)	24 (Class 15) Gr. 5 & 6 Mtg	31 (Class 16)
February 2023	7 (Class 17)	14 (Class 18)	21 <u>NO</u> RE Class President's Day	28 (Class 19)	
March 2023	7 (Class 20)	14 (Class 21)	21 (Class 22)	28 (Class 23)	
April 2023	4 <u>NO</u> RE Class Spring Break	11 <u>NO</u> RE Class Easter Break	18 (Class 24)	25 (Class 25)	
May 2023	2 (Class 26)	9 (Class 27)	16 (Class 28) May Crowning Last day of class		