

Dear families, Thank you for the consistent support and dedication with your student this year. You have been a witness of what an honor it can be to raise your children in the Catholic faith especially in this generation filled with many additional activities that compete for your time and energy. You are providing a foundation for your child that—with ongoing catechesis and your example of living a sacramental life—will equip them for a happy life. Rather than a triumphant end like a graduation, we celebrate today an exciting new beginning in their faith journey. We hope your family returns to faith formation next year, we are here to serve you.



Things to do after First Communion

Pray as a family as a natural part of family life: mealtimes, bedtimes, happy times, worrisome times, after an argument, when someone is in trouble, always on special occasions.

Celebrate Reconciliation. Encourage your family to share God's mercy with each other and bring your family to the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently, available every Saturday 9-10am in the main church.

Make Mass a family event. Before Mass talk with your family about who they want to pray for during the General Intercessions and what they want to thank God for during the Eucharistic Prayer. Sit near the front. Point out one or two things each week to watch for. Talk about the homily on the way home. Discuss the "Question of the Week" in the bulletin.

Grow together in appreciation of God's Word. On Saturday evenings, read the Sunday Scriptures. What is God saying to your family this weekend?

Be involved in in your Catholic community. Check out StAgnesNaples.org and the bulletin for lots of ways for families to serve one another.

Participate in Faith Formation each year; Faith Formation continues through grade 12 and beyond.

Meal Time Thoughts The Eucharist is God's family meal; wonderful experiences of family meals are indispensable. Try some of these ideas:

- Take turns saying something you're thankful for or happy about that involves another family member.
- Turn off the TV and phones and don't start eating until everyone is present.
- If you can't eat together every night, check your schedules at the beginning of the week and schedule your calendar to include specific times when it can be a priority.
- On Sunday, The Lord's Day, make dinner special: candles, tablecloths, the "good dishes," special desserts, unique conversations, such as: If you had one special power, what would it be? What makes you happy? Sad?
- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that celebrating Eucharist commits us to the poor (No. 1397.) Discuss at family dinner what you can do; together fix a meal for a neighbor in need, sort through toys and clothing for gifts to the poor, visit a nursing home, or add family money to a charitable donation.

Looking Back...Reflection Questions

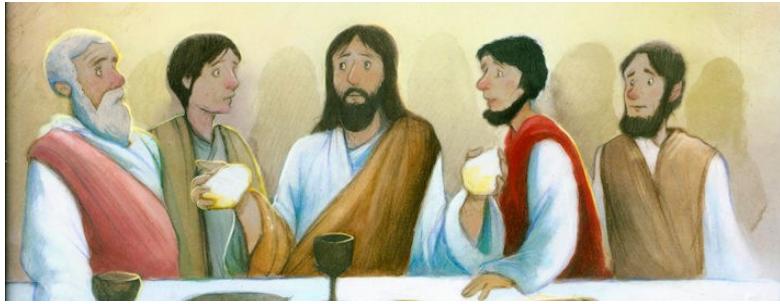
Looking back on any significant event always gives us greater awareness and appreciation for the past experience which, in turn, enriches the future. So take some time together to discuss your recollections; keep your notes for your scrapbook or memory album.

When you picture the celebration in your mind, what was most special to you?

What does this experience tell you about God?

Now that you have received First Holy Communion, how will your life be different?

Parents: How was your faith affirmed as you prepared for and celebrated this sacrament with your child?



How I Receive Communion

Receiving Jesus Christ in Holy Communion is a special moment. We remember Jesus' gift of life, Jesus' sacrifice, Jesus' Real Presence.

- I go forward, hands joined, with the community in procession, praying in song.
- To show respect for the Eucharist, I make a slight bow of my head before receiving Communion, while the person in front of me is receiving.
- The priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of the Eucharist says, "The Body of Christ." I answer, "Amen." I can choose to receive Communion in my hand or on my tongue. If I receive in my hand, I put the hand that I write with flat under my other hand to make a throne for Jesus. If I receive the Host on my tongue, I hold my head up and gently put out my tongue with my hands joined.
- After receiving the Body of Christ, I walk with hands folded to the minister holding the chalice. When the minister says, "The Blood of Christ," I respond, "Amen." When the minister offers me the chalice, I take it firmly in both hands, one around the middle and the other holding it up from the bottom. I bring the chalice to my lips, sip a small amount of the Precious Blood, and return the chalice to the minister.
- If I prefer not to receive the Precious Blood, I will bow my head and walk past the chalice without drinking from it.
- As I return to my seat, I continue singing the song of thanksgiving. Then I kneel until the priest sits and I thank Jesus for his many gifts.

Photos of the First Communion Mass

- Parents/Friends/Guests: Please wait until after the group picture at the end of Mass to take photos/videos and continue to demonstrate respect for the sacred space.
- One professional photo of your child receiving Communion during the Mass will be taken and one group photo after Mass.
- Be sure the Faith Formation office has your correct email address to receive the secure private link to view and download these FREE digital photos.
- If you have questions about photography or wish to arrange more pictures with our photographer, his contact information is: Glenn Hemberger gvhem@hotmail.com 913-669-7606

Livestreaming Mass

For those who cannot join us due to distance or health, the Mass will be livestreamed and the video saved on www.StAgnesNaples.org, on the First Communion page under Sacraments.



First Communion Dress Code

Gentlemen's attire is a button-down dress shirt of any color (short or long sleeved), dress pants, a neck/bow tie of any color, and dress shoes; a sport coat is optional.

Ladies' attire is any modest dress suitable for a special occasion. A white dress is traditional but not required. Dresses must reach the knees. No full-length dresses, petticoats, pants, or gloves. Bare shoulders, cleavage, midriffs, or backs are inappropriate. Heels must be no more than 1 inch. Headpieces are optional; it must be simple, short, and securely fastened; it must not be a distraction to her or to anyone around her during the Mass.

Nothing else is to be carried by the candidates or sponsors at Mass, such as cell phones, purses, rosaries, candles, prayer books, bibles, or flowers.