

## WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY OF FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

### FAMILY OF FAITH

For grades K to 4 (including preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist).

We believe that parents are the first and best teachers of faith for their children, and that the best gift we can give the children of our parish is an entire family growing in faith together!

With FAMILY OF FAITH, your family comes together twice a month from September to April to learn about God and grow in faith as a family. Between the sessions, parents teach their children the Catholic Faith at home.

We meet twice per month on **Sunday mornings beginning with 9:00 am Mass, followed by Family of Faith sessions from 10:15 am to 11:15 am.**



### WHY FAMILY OF FAITH?

The past success of our traditional CFF program depended on families regularly participating in Sunday Mass and actively practicing their faith at home...unfortunately this isn't the reality anymore. Faith Formation is treated as a "subject" to be learned rather than a faith to be lived. Is it any wonder that many families see their child's sacrament reception as a graduation ceremony? Family of Faith program is a new model based on an old idea (parents as primary catechists to their children). The focus is on giving parents tools to help them succeed at being the religious educators that they already are and building community – **Family of Faith** fosters both.

### HOW DOES FAMILY OF FAITH WORK?

There are two in-person sessions each month in Cauchi Hall from 10:15 am to 11:15 am, in order to allow your family to attend Mass beforehand. There's a lot more flexibility in *Family of Faith* than in a traditional weekly religious education program. You determine when to do the at-home activities — on your family's schedule. The program runs from September to April.

A **Parent Session** (Topic) is held near the beginning of each month, to help parents deepen their own knowledge of the Catholic faith. Children will start the session together with their parents and then attend their own age appropriate session.

Then there is a **Community Session** near the end of each month, which is for the entire family to build community and celebrate Catholic life together through common prayer, service to others, social activities and liturgical celebrations.

### WHO IS THIS FOR? WHAT IF WE HAVE OLDER OR YOUNGER CHILDREN?

The lessons are geared for kids in grades K-4...but all parishioners are welcome to get involved. At home, your teens can help teach younger siblings. All adults can come and benefit from the teaching during the parent (Topic) sessions, and those without their own children might consider volunteering to accompany and mentor another family that could use a helping hand.

### WHAT ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH?

At St. Agnes we offer a Middle School Ministry program designed to create a faith based social experience for children between fifth and eighth grade.

Emphasis is placed on creating community and forming lasting friendships. Sessions will involve games, physical activities, conversations surrounding peer pressure, the pitfalls of social media, and developing a genuine relationship with Christ. Most of all, there will be lots of food and fun!

Sessions are held once a month from 10:15 am to 11:15 am following the 9:00 am Mass. Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion is provided if needed.

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

After your child has completed one year of faith formation, he or she is eligible to enter the Sacraments program, and prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation in January and First Communion in May. All children are required to be baptized before receiving these Sacraments. Families will continue to participate in Family of Faith but there are a few extra sessions, in addition to regular Family of Faith sessions, specific to Reconciliation and Eucharist, to prepare children for these special celebrations. Two parent workshops are held in the Fall and Winter for parents of children that are preparing for the Sacraments. An additional calendar for Sacramental Preparation will be provided.



## **DISASTER PLAN**

In the event of a disaster during Faith Formation, the catechists will walk the students to the grass/play structure area behind the Church. The following is the plan:

1. The catechists are to remain with their class until each child has been picked up.
2. The parent/guardian will come to the grass/play structure area behind the Church.
3. A person there will find your child and bring him/her to you.
4. The parent/guardian or person on your emergency form will need to sign the child "out". We need a record of who goes home with whom and we will only release them as outlined.
5. Because we will need to vacate all buildings, the phones will not be answered at this time.

## **PARISH REGISTRATION**

It is the policy of this parish that families with children attending our program be registered with St. Agnes Parish. However, we do accept children whose families are registered at other parishes. Registering for Family of Faith Formation classes does not automatically register you in the parish. Parish registration forms can be found online at [www.stagneparish.net](http://www.stagneparish.net).

### **PASTOR**

FATHER LUKE SSEMAKULA

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

JASON SHELTON, COORDINATOR

(925) 689-0838 Ext. 211

Email: [jason.stagneparish@gmail.com](mailto:jason.stagneparish@gmail.com)

CECILIA ARONSON, SECRETARY

(925) 689-0838 Ext. 202

Email: [cecilia.a.stagneparish@gmail.com](mailto:cecilia.a.stagneparish@gmail.com)

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Registration forms and payment can be mailed to the Ministry Center, or placed in an envelope, "Attention Family of Faith Program", and turned in at the Welcome Table after Mass. We also accept electronic tuition payment using Zelle. Simply log onto your bank's app and select "transfer funds" and use email address **[stagnesoffice@comcast.net](mailto:stagnesoffice@comcast.net)**. Make sure to indicate that it's for Family of Faith.

Please include the following with your registration:

- Completed Registration Form.
- Signed Diocesan Parental Permission Form.
- Check made payable to St. Agnes Church (Memo – Family of Faith Program), or Electronic payment using Zelle.
- For opportunities available to offset tuition fees contact Religious Education office at 925-689-0838, Ext. 202.
- If your child is preparing for First Communion this school year, include a copy of the Baptismal certificate.

Once forms are received you will be notified of your enrollment via email.

### **FIRST PARENT MEETING**

Explaining the program and materials  
Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
in the Church

### **SESSION KICK-OFF**

Opening Mass followed by  
Family of Faith Session  
Sunday, September 13, 9:00 am

# **ST. AGNES PARISH FAMILY OF FAITH FOR GRADES K – 4 2026-2027**



## **A FAMILY OF FAITH**

*Family Catechesis for  
Our Parish*

3966 Chestnut Avenue

Concord, CA 94519

(925) 689-0838 Ext. 211 & 202

Fax: (925) 689-7899

Website: [www.stagneparish.net](http://www.stagneparish.net)