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# Faith Formation Program

## HANDBOOK

*2022-2023*

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**Church of Santi Apostoli e Biagio**

*English-speaking Community*

## **Welcome**

Welcome to the Faith Formation Program offered by the English-speaking Community of Florence at the Church of Santi Apostoli. This program has been developed for the Community of English-speaking Catholics in Florence who are nourished by our encounter with Jesus and one another, who grow in our faith together, and who go out and form apostles in our world and society. Our community is international, universal, full of life and joy! Our Church is located in the heart of the city, tucked away along the Arno, right beside Ponte Vecchio. Our Child and Youth Faith Formation Program is taught in English, and we are delighted to have you as a part of our community.

*An Italian Faith Formation Program is also offered at Santi Apostoli.*

## **Saint Apostoli**

The Church of Santi Apostoli is a Romanesque-style Roman Catholic church in the historic centre of Florence, in the Tuscany region of Italy. It is among the oldest church buildings in Florence, dating back over a thousand years. The Church of Santi Apostoli is served by the priests of the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ. The priest in charge of the pastoral care for the English-speaking Catholic Community of Florence is Fr. Kramer Cameron.

The English program classes take place at 11:30 am on Sundays right after the 10:30 am English Mass.

*Location (address): Piazza del Limbo, 1, 50123 Firenze, Italia*

## **Faith Formation Program**

The pre-Catechism course lasts one year, and the preparatory course for the First Communion has a period of two years, the Confirmation course is also two years. The classes are designed as building blocks to support students in their journey of faith and spirituality. The classes will

take place at Santi Apostoli, and students will gain access to the class material and extra reading resources, at times convenient to them.

## Student Enrolment

*Student Registration opens on Sunday, October 9, 2022*

### For Returning Students

- Please fill out the forms (*Registration and Terms and Condition Form*) available at Saint Apostoli on the enrolment day on October 9, 2022.
- For those willing, we welcome a donation to help cover the extra costs of our activities, although a denotation is not compulsory.

### For New Students, please bring the required documents:

- A copy of your child/student baptism certificate.
- Please fill out the forms (*Registration and Terms and Condition Form*) available at Saint Apostoli on the enrolment day on October 9, 2022.
- For those willing, we welcome a donation to help cover the extra costs of our activities, although a denotation is not compulsory.

## Program Attendance

All students are expected to attend a class every week, according to the Catechism Calendar. They are also expected to arrive on time for each class unless a valid reason prevents a student from attending. Therefore, students are allowed a maximum of **four (4) absences for the year (20%)**. A student with poor attendance may *not* have the necessary preparation for the sacrament. The child's Catechist will contact the parents to inform of the number of absences if it becomes significant. The parents should make sure to reach out to their child's catechist regarding the missed lesson. Extracurricular activities (e.g. sports, dance, ski trips, etc.) and school-related activities will count towards the four absences allowed for the year.

## The program aims:

- To inspire the new generation of Christ's apostles with an experience of God's love, a broad understanding of the Gospel, and the importance of Christianity as a foundation for love, charity, dignity and respect for all persons and nature. By adopting an interdisciplinary creative approach, our teaching aims to nurture our students to observe the world and understand how it correlates with the history of Christianity by mixing tradition with an awareness of the impact of today's actions in the world we are creating for tomorrow.
- Inspired by the structure of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the great tradition of catechism teaching, we build catechesis on the love of God and construct four pillars: the baptismal profession of faith (the Creed), the sacraments of faith, the life of faith (the Commandments), and the prayer of the believer (the Lord's Prayer).

## Presentation of the courses/ literature

- Learning of the course will be achieved through lectures, discussions, exercises, and prayer alongside lots of fun activities and students' reading and homework assignments.
- Teaching will include skills sessions that relate to the topics being addressed, and our catechists will dedicate time for students to ask questions about that week's work.
- The central literature will be based on the book series *Dynamic Catholic*, the *Blessed* book series for First Communion (years 1 and 2), and the *Decision Point* book for Confirmation (years 1 and 2), alongside Santi Apostoli's own pedagogy.
- Each student will receive copies of weekly lessons, and the structure of the classes will be based on: reading, activities and reflection.

## Home study

- Besides our weekly classes, it is recognised that students study and develop an interest in some particular topics at different paces. As a result, we use various approaches, so depending on each student's interest, extra reading material can be provided. We also encourage students to discuss the learnt topics at home with parents, and to get involved in our Parish activities.

- Online material covered in class, including the class books, will be made available to the students and the parents.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

- During the academic year we also offer to our students the possibility to take part in many extracurricular activities (*see our yearly activities marked in blue below*). These activities can be a great way to get involved in our wider community and also learn about the traditional celebrative dates of our Catholic Church.
- Extra-curricular activities are a collaboration between our English-speaking and Italian communities and are not compulsory.

### **International Program Team**

<b>Director:</b>	<b>Fr Kramer Cameron</b>	<b>Tel: +39 348 871 9565</b>
<b>Catechism Coordinator:</b>	<b>Dr Renata S Beman</b>	<b>Tel: +39 333 115 0311</b>
<b>Logistics Coordinator:</b>	<b>Betina Yang</b>	<b>Tel: +39 377 433 5742</b>

### **Our Catechists**

**Year 1, First Communion: Mrs Salima Quereshi & Miss Dominika Kulpinska**

**Year 2, Frist communion: Miss Betina Yang & Miss Stefanie Intan**

**Year 1 Confirmation: Dr Renata Santos Beman & Mr Gabriele Marchese**



## Calendar 2022-2023

*Note: Extra-curricular (EA) activities heighted in blue*

<p><b>OCTOBER 2022</b></p> <p>Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> Registration/ Frist day of catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>. Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p><i>EA- Saturday, 22 - "All Saints"</i></p>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 2022</b></p> <p>Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup>. Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p><i>EA- Sunday, 20 - "Feast Christ King"</i></p>
<p><b>DECEMBER 2022</b></p> <p>Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>. Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p><i>EA- Thursday, 8 – "Feast of the Immaculate Conception"</i></p> <p><i>EA Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Party Celebration</i></p>	<p><b>JANUARY 2023</b></p> <p>Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup>. Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY 2023</b></p> <p>Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>. Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p>	<p><b>MARCH 2023</b></p> <p>Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>. Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p>
<p><b>APRIL 2023</b></p> <p>Sunday, 2nd Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>. Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 23<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p>Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> Catechism classes</p> <p><i>EA Sunday, 2th – "Easter Egg Hunt"</i></p>	<p><b>MAY 2023</b></p> <p><i>Saturday, 13 - First Communion Retreat <sup>1</sup></i></p> <p>Sunday, 14 - Catechism</p> <p><i>Sunday, 21 - First Communions <sup>2</sup></i></p> <p>Sunday, 28 - Catechism</p>

## NOTES

### <sup>1</sup> **Frist Communion & Confirmation**

Information about the 2023 *First Communions and Confirmations* (i.e. retreat location, times, the final event) will be presented and discussed during our parenting meetings in early February, together with parent consent forms and information about flower arrangements and photography for the celebratory events.

### <sup>2</sup> **Frist Communion Dress Code**

First Communion vestments can be purchased at Confezioni Cerutti. Address: *Via del Proconsolo, 20R, 50122 Firenze FI*- please mention that you need the vestment for Santi Apostoli.

### <sup>3</sup> **Confirmation dress Code**

Smart casual

We are honoured to be on this journey of faith with each of you! Let us continue to pray for one another constantly so that we may all be filled with the love and light of the Holy Spirit.