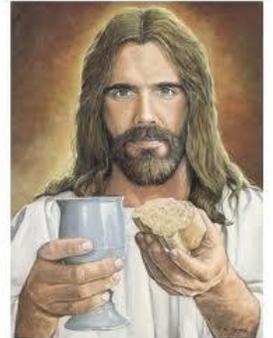


**“FAQ’S” FOR PARENTS OF FIRST COMMUNION
CHILDREN
ST. PATRICK PARISH**

Eucharist Family Gathering for all First Communion Candidates and their parents will be held on Saturday, April 17th from 10:00 to 12:30. A morning of activities and reflection to focus our hearts on the Sacrament of Eucharist. We will split into 3 separate groups and stay in those groups throughout. The activities will be in the church, gym and parish center, so there will be room to properly distance.



1st Communion Masses

Saturday, May 8th at 11:00

Saturday, May 8th at 12:30

Saturday, May 15th at 11:00

Due to the on-going pandemic space restrictions in our church, each family will be assigned one pew. We ask that you limit your family attending to fit in that one pew.

What should children wear for First Holy Communion?

Being that First Communion is a Sacrament of Initiation, as is Baptism, the color of “white” has traditionally been associated with First Holy Communion, as it is with Baptism. However, over the years, other options have also become acceptable. It is always important whenever we attend Mass to be dressed in our “Sunday best” to honor the presence of our Lord, Jesus!

Here are some suggestions....

Girls should wear a dress and dress shoes. White, or dress with some white in it, would be appropriate. If the dress is sleeveless, a little sweater or shrug may be worn, especially if it is chilly.

(Veils or floral headpieces are also appropriate, but not mandatory.)

Boys should wear a jacket and tie, but they may be of any color. Boys may wear either suits or a sport coat with slacks and dress shirt and shoes. (In keeping with the theme of white for a Sacrament of Initiation, it is appropriate for a boy to wear a white tie if you so choose.)

Girls and Boys: No sneakers, please!

How long will the Mass be?

This mass is not a scheduled parish mass but is being celebrated just for the First Communicants and their family. Therefore, the Mass will be about 45 minutes to an hour.

When and where do the children need to be at church?

We ask families to be seated in their pew by 10 minutes before mass begins, at the latest. 1st Communicants sit on the end of the pew, with their family. We will have available a seating diagram that marks where your family pew is. Please go directly to your pew with your 1st Communicant child.

Will there be a photographer available?

Yes, a photographer will be present during the Mass to take photos of the children receiving their First Communion and other photos during the Mass. Each Communicant's family will receive a coupon code for 2 digital images from the photo gallery on a password protected website. These 2 images are complimentary.

What will be different due to the pandemic restrictions?

When last year's 1st Communions were cancelled due to the quarantine, we celebrated them this past Fall. At that time, we had to tweak some of the usual things done at a St. Patrick's 1st Communion, but not the essential, which is receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. The celebrations turned out just beautiful and special. We are following the same procedure for this year's celebrations.

- Processions are not permitted, however Fr. Redcay called the children to the back and let them walk up the center aisle in an "informal" procession before mass began.
- There is no Offertory Procession.
- There will be a cantor and music, but no choir.
- The children will sit with their families, rather than all together. Father will go from section to section to give communion to the children, so they will just line up in the aisle where they are sitting, rather than everyone in the

center aisle. Markers on the floor will mark off 6 ft. separation. We will line them up and give direction to them.

- There will be no recessional procession or group picture.

*****Any special considerations...**

There are low gluten hosts available for anyone who has gluten intolerance. Please call the office for details or with any other concern (610-296-8899).

Thank you!

