

“FAQ’S” FOR PARENTS OF FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN ST. PATRICK PARISH 2024

Family Eucharist Gathering Day: Saturday, March 16th (begins with 9:00 mass and ends at 12:00) This is a morning of activities and spiritual preparation for our 1st Communicants and their parents.

Portraits

Bradley Digital will be available in our church on Sunday, March 10th for portraits of your child in their 1st Communion outfits, *if you wish to have this done*. You must sign up for an appointment time, the sessions will begin at 1:30 until 2:30. Please see the attached flyer from Bradley Digital and follow the directions for pre-registering your appointment time.

❖ *The portraits are optional and not part of the complimentary package. Payment will be between you and Bradley Digital.*

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 a regularly scheduled parish mass. With the little extras of the 1st Communion also included, the Mass could be about 45 minutes to an hour.

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

The 1st Communion children are asked to report to the chapel area of the narthex at least 15 minutes before mass begins. The children will then line up and process in. Each family will have a pew reserved for them. After the children process in, they will sit with their families in their reserved pew. We ask that the child sit on the end of the pew. We will have a seating diagram available that marks where your family pew is. *Also, the banner that you will make at the Family Eucharist Day will be hung on your pew.*

Sign Up for Family Pew

In March, we will be sending you a link to sign up for a pew (by size) appropriate for your family at your 1st Communion mass. As you know, our pew lengths vary in our church, and the sizes of families vary. Therefore, we will ask you to choose a pew for your family by how many you will need to seat in the pew.

Will there be a photographer available?

Yes, a professional photographer from Bradley Digital will be present during each Mass to take photos of the children receiving their First Communion and other photos during each 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 covered by your Communion Program Fee. Any photos you wish beyond these 2 may be purchased from the photographer.

Any special considerations... There are low gluten hosts available for anyone who has gluten intolerance. Please call or e-mail the office for details or with any other concern (610-296-8899), etiernan@stpatrickmalvern.org, mbartoldson@stpatrickmalvern.org

Penance and Communion \$85 Program Fee

Thank you to those who have sent us their fee. The fee helps us to cover the Penance and Eucharist certificates and pins, the Family Eucharist Day, and materials to make the banners, as well as the photographer's services for the Communion Mass. We thank you for helping us to defray these costs with your Penance and Communion Fee.