

FIRST EUCHARIST

IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION

Dates/Times

- Child attends Sunday Religious Education Classes
Practice: Thursday, April 29, 5:30-6:30 pm
Ceremony: Saturday, May 1, 10:00 am
- Child attends St. Raphael School or Tuesday Religious Education Classes
Practice: Thursday, April 29, 7:00-8:00 pm
Ceremony: Saturday, May 1, 1:00 pm
- We estimate that the Mass will last approximately 1½ hours. However, please allow at least 2 hours for the entire ceremony to provide time after the Mass for pictures and attending the reception.

General

- Attire:
Boys should wear nice dark slacks, a white dress shirt, tie, and dress shoes. A coat is optional.

Girls should wear a white dress and dress shoes. A head covering is optional. If gloves are worn, they are to be removed prior to receiving Communion.
- Banners:
The making of a banner is optional. Instructions for making banners are included in this packet. The banners should be brought and hung in place (at the end of the pew where your family will sit) as soon as you arrive for Mass.
- Reconciliation:
Children should receive the sacrament of Reconciliation within close proximity of their First Holy Communion. Confessions are offered weekly on Saturdays at 4:00 pm in the Chapel or by appointment.
- Seating:
Each family will have a reserved pew. For those who turn in the request form, we will make every attempt to accommodate your request.

Practice

- Pews will be labeled with the family name.

- Practice will include processing in, receiving Communion, and processing out.
- Children will practice receiving the Eucharist with an unconsecrated host. They will also practice handling the chalice. It would be appreciated if they could also practice the gestures at home.

Before Mass

- A one-hour fast is required prior to receiving Communion. Fasting includes no food, no drinks (except water), and no gum.
- Please arrive no later than 30 minutes before the start of Mass
- The Rosary will be prayed in the Church 20 minutes prior to Mass.
- The children will line up in the hallway to process in. The parents and other family members are to be seated and remain in the pew by the start of Mass.

Mass

- We ask that you do not take any pictures/videos during Mass out of respect for Our Lord. A professional photographer will be taking pictures of the children receiving the sacrament. Pictures may be taken after Mass in the Church.
- A child may process in carrying their baptismal candle or a rosary. If the child does this, he/she should give the item to their parent as soon as they enter the pew. Otherwise, the child should have their hands folded.
- All First Communicants, together with their parents, will receive the Body and Blood of Jesus first. Children are highly encouraged to receive both species – the bread (Body of Christ) and the wine (Blood of Christ). Afterwards, the rest of the congregation will be invited to receive Communion.
- Prior to the Final Blessing and Dismissal, Fr. Dan will call the children forward for a special blessing. They will process out of Church with Father, with all other family members remaining in the pew. The children will then be brought back in to the Church.

Reception

- After Mass, there will be a reception in the gym. All families are to stop in for refreshments and to pick up their First Communion certificate and gift.