

First Communion Day Instructions

Arrival

- ⇒ Please bring your child to their assigned room (same room as for rehearsal) **no earlier than 30 minutes before their scheduled Mass**
- **9:00 AM Mass**: Drop Off between 8:30 – 8:40 AM; students will be lined up by 8:45 AM; students will process to the church to be seated at 8:50 AM
 - **11:30 AM Mass**: Drop Off between 11:00 – 11:10 AM; students will be lined up by 11:15 AM; students will process to the church to be seated at 11:20 AM.

Programs

- ⇒ Each family will receive 1 (one) copy of the First Communion program when you drop your student in the classroom. ALL students will receive a keepsake copy with their certificate. Extra copies may be available upon request at the reception.

Seating

- ⇒ Upon leaving your child in the center, parents are encouraged to go to the church to pray for their children and thank Jesus for His many blessings, especially the gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist.
- Please keep in mind that the church is a sacred place – not a concert venue. “Saving seats” is NOT appropriate and our ushers are trained to fill in empty spaces as necessary. If you need an entire row for your family and guests, it is recommended that you come together when your child is dropped off. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.
 - Handicapped parking is available on the upper side of the church building and there is a ramp access to the side wing; handicapped seating is the front row of the right wing of the church as you face the altar.
 - Out of respect for the Blessed Sacrament, our pastor insists that **NO PICTURES BE TAKEN DURING MASS** regardless of the media (camera or cell phone)!

Communion

- ⇒ When it is time for Communion, the First Communicants and their catechists will receive first followed by the rest of the congregation. (Once again, this IS NOT a photo op and we request parents and guests to remain seated at this time.)
- Only Catholics who are properly disposed to receive the sacraments should come to the altar to receive the Body of Christ; please remind your guests of this caveat
 - Please advise any out of town visitors who may be accustomed to receiving communion under both species that we DO NOT offer the Precious Blood to the entire assembly at our parish.
 - If you know of an individual who will be in attendance at this Mass who is unable to receive the host due to celiac disease (wheat intolerance), please advise the RE office as soon as possible. They will be able to receive the Precious Blood at the time when the altar servers and Eucharistic ministers receive communion, but we must know in advance so a separate chalice can be prepared.

After Mass

- ⇒ **Reception:** Parents and guests are invited to a light reception of cake and punch while the pictures are being taken. PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THE FIRST COMMUNICANTS HAVE PROCESSED DOWN THE SIDEWALK TO THE BUILDING BEFORE LEAVING THE CHURCH. Parents will enter the center via the side doors – NOT the lobby doors - as the students will be lined up quickly and then return to the center via the lobby for the pictures.
- A separate table is set up near the Certificate Table with cake reserved especially for the First Communicants.
 - Once the class picture has been taken, students should come to the table to their right and pick up their certificate. A parent may also come pick it up for their child.
 - Then the students are free to enjoy their cake and punch.
 - A line will be formed for those who wish to have pictures with our priest(s).
 - If the weather is nice, you may also take pictures outdoors by any of the statues.