



GUIDELINES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF FIRST COMMUNION IN SPRING 2024

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

We thank families for all that you do in trying to raise the children in our Catholic Faith. We especially thank parents and guardians who journeyed with the children and engaging them with the preparation materials that were provided to you. Following the celebration of first Confessions, we approach the celebration of First Communion. We would like to remind everyone of some important guidelines regarding these celebrations.

CELEBRATION TIME

The celebration of Mass begins at **7:00pm**. **Please plan to arrive at the church at least 10 minutes before the celebration.** This will give everyone ample time to find their proper seats in the church.

We are able to allot space so that each child will have one pew (roughly 7 seats) set aside for them. You can have additional guests coming for Mass, but we cannot guarantee seating space for them beyond your one pew.

COLLECTION

A collection will be taken up during the celebration for the needs of the parish. We invite everyone to consider making a contribution for the needs of the church on the day of the first Communion. We thank everyone in advance for your generous support of our parish.

ATTIRE

It is customary that the children making first Communion are dressed in *something* that is white.

This is to emphasize a connection between the day of their Baptism and the day of first Communion.

For girls, this may come in the form of a white dress but that is not a strict requirement. For boys, this may come in the form of a white shirt or a white tie, or a commemorative armband (even if it is under a black suit). The outfit does not need to be *all* white, so long as an element of the outfit is white. **Family and other guests are advised to wear something appropriate for church.**

RECEIVING COMMUNION

We ask that you once again go over how to receive communion with the children. They should be taught to respond "AMEN" when the host is presented to them. If they are receiving on their hands, the children should be taught to present their hands one on top of the other like a throne for Our Lord. If they are to receive on their tongue, the children should be taught to open their mouth so that the priest can give them communion in a proper manner.

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST COMMUNION

The Certificate of first Communion, as a remembrance of the day, will be given to you near the end of the celebration. Please note that first Communion Certificates do not replace the Baptism Certificate of your child. In addition, please note that the church does not normally re-issue first Communion Certificates in case of loss or damage.

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Please avoid taking photos or videos in the church *before and during* the celebration.

As time allows, you may take pictures *outside* the church (on the grounds, in the parking lot, etc.) as you arrive *before* the celebration.

You will also be given some time *after* the celebration to take photographs *inside* the church. Due to the number of families and the small size of our church, however, we ask that everyone please be mindful of other families that may wish to take photos as well.

CONCLUDING NOTES

Please remember that the journey of our Catholic Faith continues well beyond first Communion. We hope that the children will continue to be nourished in the love of God as expressed by our community worship especially on Sundays. We pray that you will continue your best to help the children experience the Eucharist as a regular yet very special part of their lives. **May this truly be *first of many* Communion.**