

St. Mary and St. John the Baptist

First Communion



Family Handbook

Dear Parents,

At the Last Supper when Jesus broke the bread and passed it to His friends, He said, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body, which will be given up for you." Next He passed a cup of wine around the table for His friends to share. "Take this, all of you, and drink from it." He said, "This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven." Then Jesus said, "Do this in memory of me."

Jesus did not mean that the sharing of wine and the bread would be a simple ceremony of remembering, as we remember a departed friend with a toast or tribute. He promised His very life in this sacrament. In the Eucharist Jesus becomes truly and fully present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. He shares all of Himself with us; the life He lived, the life He won by His death and resurrection, and the glorious life He has promised when He comes again.

Soon your child will join your family and God's family at the Lord's Table for the first time. He/She will eat the Bread of Life and drink from the Cup of Life. Your child in his/her First Communion preparation classes will learn what a wonderful gift Jesus has given us in the Eucharist. You can support this learning by expressing your own appreciation of the wonder and the mystery of this glorious gift.

The best preparation for First Communion day that you can give your child is **REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT MASS**. Talk to your child about the Mass before you go and at appropriate moments in the actual celebration when you are in church together. Emphasize the Mass as God's family celebrating a meal. Start at the beginning of the Mass and explain that as we enter the church, we make the family sign, the Sign of the Cross. Ask your child if he/she knows or can guess why the cross is our family sign. Remind your child that Jesus by His death on the cross won the life that he/she will share in; the bread and wine of the Eucharist: life that goes on forever, even after we die.

If you have any questions concerning First Communion, please feel free to call the Faith Formation Office 725-7714 or contact your teacher.

Included in this booklet for your convenience are:

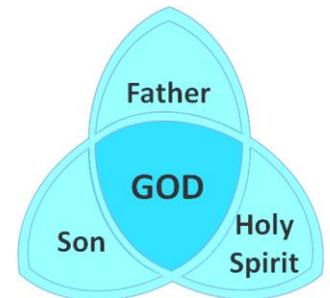
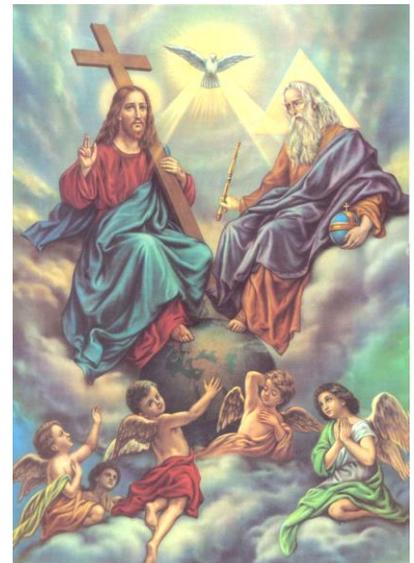
1. Common Catholic Prayers (*Eucharistic Act of Faith, Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition, Glory Be, Grace before Meals, Grace after Meals, Guardian Angel Prayer, Bedtime Prayer, Apostles Creed, Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Ten Commandments, Angelus, The Great Commandment, The Five Precepts of the Church, Corporal Works of Mercy, Spiritual Works of Mercy, Beatitudes, Prayer of Parents for Their Children and Parent's Prayer.*)
2. First Communion Pointers: Emphasis on the Practical
3. Things NOT to do
4. Summary of Doctrine on the Eucharist
5. The Holy Eucharist is the Whole Christ
6. Guidelines for the Reception of Communion
7. First Communion Special Dates
8. Reconciliation Times
9. First Communion Banner Instructions

Eucharistic Act of Faith

I believe in God the Father the Almighty.
I believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ.
I believe in God the Holy Spirit.
I believe in the Holy Trinity.

I believe in the Real Presence of Jesus
in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.
I believe in the Real Presence of Jesus
in the Body of Christ, the Consecrated Bread.
I believe in the Real Presence of Jesus
in the Blood of Christ, the Consecrated Wine.

I believe that Jesus instituted the One, Holy, Catholic
and Apostolic Church as His dwelling home on earth.
I believe in the Real Presence of Jesus
in the Sacred Tabernacles of the Catholic Church.
I believe that Jesus is truly present physically among us,
over and above being spiritually present within us.
May this truth be known to all for the Glory of God. Amen.



Prayer of Discipleship

Loving God,
I thank you for choosing me to be your disciple
and for the gift of your Son, Jesus.
Help me proclaim and bear witness to the Gospel
by word and by deed today and every day.
Open my heart to the outcast, the forgotten, the lonely,
the sick and the poor.
Grant me the courage to think to choose and
to live as a Christian joyfully obedient to God. Amen.



The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of Grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

An Act of Contrition

Father, I am sorry,
for all my sins.
I am sorry for the wrong things
I have done.
I am sorry for the good things
I have failed to do.
I will try to do better.
Help me to love others.
Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to
the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Grace before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are
about to receive from Thy bounty; through Christ
Our Lord. Amen

Grace after Meals

We give you thanks almighty God,
for all the benefits, we have received,
through Christ our Lord. Amen

An Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended
Thee. I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of
heaven and the pains of hell; but most of all because
I have offended Thee, my God, Who art all good
and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with
the help of Thy grace to confess my sins, to do
penance, and to amend my life. Amen

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, my Guardian dear.
To whom God's love, commits me here.
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light, to guard,
To rule, and guide.
Amen.

Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep.
I pray the Lord, my soul to keep.
Guard me safely through this night.
Wake me with the morning light.
God bless...*(Mom, Dad, John, Sue, etc.....)*
Amen.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy love. Send forth Thy spirit and they shall be created and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, Who didst teach the heart of Thy faithful people by sending them the light of Thy Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

The Angelus

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH.
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech Thee,
O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we to whom the incarnation of Thy Son was made known by the message of the angel made by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

The Great Commandment

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.

The 5 Precepts of the Church

1. Attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.
3. Receive Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
4. Fast and abstain on days of penance established by the Church.
5. Provide for the material needs of the Church according to your ability.

Corporal Works of Mercy

“...Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me”
(Matthew 25:31-46).

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish the sinner.
4. Comfort the sorrowful.
5. Forgive injuries.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

The Beatitudes

from Matthew 5:3-11; and Luke 6:20-26

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.
2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Prayer for Children for Their Parents

O Almighty God,
You gave us the commandment
to honor our father and mother.
In your loving kindness
hear my prayer for my parents.
Give them long lives
and keep them well in body and spirit.
Bless their labors;
keep them always in your care.
Bless them generously for
their loving care for me.
Grant that, through your grace,
I may always be their support
and comfort, and that,
after our life together on earth,
we may experience the joy together
praising you forever. Amen.

A Parent's Prayer

Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.
We thank and praise you.
Thank you for the gift of our children.
Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore.
Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.
May our children come to know you, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love,
so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.
May their ears hear your voice.
May their eyes see your presence in all things.
May their lips proclaim your word.
May their hearts be your dwelling place.
May their hands do works of charity.
May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ,
your Son and our Lord. Amen.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/a-parents-prayer.htm>

Parenthood is a great responsibility; for Christian parents, that responsibility extends beyond physical care for their children to the salvation of their souls. We need to turn to God, as in this prayer, for guidance and for the grace necessary to fulfill this greatest of duties.

Prayer of Parents for Their Children

O Jesus, Lover of Children,
bestow Your Most precious graces
on those whom You have confided to our care.
Increase in them Faith, Hope and Charity.
May Your love lead them to solid piety,
inspiring them with dread for sin, love of work and an ardent desire
of worthily approaching Your Holy Table.
Preserve in them innocence and purity of heart;
and if they should offend You,
grant them the grace of a prompt and sincere repentance.
From Your Tabernacle watch over them day and night;
protect them in all their ways.
Grant that they may acquire the knowledge
that they need to embrace the state of life
to which You have called them.
Grant us a sincere love, constant vigilance
and generous devotedness towards them.
Grant us all consolation on earth and eternal reward in heaven. Amen.
<http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english/p04376.htm>

Prayer of Parents for Their Children

God, our Father, I thank You for the gift of my children
and for the privilege and responsibility of being a parent,
for this is my way of holiness.
May I regard each of my children as a sacred pledge of Your love
and a beautiful sign of Your confidence in me.
Help me to pass on to my children our greatest treasures,
faith in Your truths, hope in Your goodness,
love in Your Name for all.
I entrust my children to Your loving care.
Banish from our home any bitterness or lack of forgiveness.
Let us have time, deep concern, and a sense of sacrifice for one another.
Teach us never to be ashamed that we are,
in name and in fact, a Catholic family striving to live in the way of Jesus,
Who is head of our home.
Give us Your Holy Spirit to unite us throughout this life
and let the circle of our family be unbroken
in the Kingdom of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
<http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english3/p02458.htm>

First Communion Pointers: Emphasis on the Practical

1. **Do take an active part in preparing your child for First Communion.** Ask the children what they are doing in class. Look through your child's text to see what they have done in class and question them about it.
2. **Do be aware that you TEACH more by what you ARE and DO than by what you say.**
3. **Do provide religious experiences in your home.** Children will learn more from these than from listening, reciting and memorizing. Introduce or add additional ways and time for family prayer: During meals (let each member take turns); on special occasions like birthdays; before bed; when someone is in trouble. Write family prayers together and keep them in a special place to be used when the family gathers for meals or celebrations. These experiences should not always be limited to words. Music, quiet time activities, blessings with touch, use of Holy Water and candles – all illustrate that God can be found everywhere and touches all of life.
4. **Do grow together in appreciation of God's Word.** Introduce your child to Scripture. On Saturday afternoons or evenings, set aside a few moments to read and interpret the Scripture reading for the weekend Mass.
5. **Do make Mass a Family event.** Whenever possible, attend Mass as a family. Sit near the front. Talk about the Mass on your way to church; suggest something for the children to pray about, something to watch or listen for. Talk about the homily on the way home. Offer to take up the gifts at Mass. The best preparation for First Communion day that you can give your child is **REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT MASS**. Emphasize the Mass as God's family celebrating a meal.
6. **Do take a tour of the Church.** Stay awhile after Mass and point out to your child where they were baptized; point out the altar, the tabernacle, etc. Ask for a copy of the Church Search pamphlet from the Religious Education Office.
7. **Do stress Communion as a beginning.** First Communion is a decisive act but it is not a culmination. Everything in the preparation should convince the child that it is the beginning or a life-long series of privileged moments and growth.

Things NOT to Do:

1. Don't make First Communion something it's not.

It should be just what we call it, **first**.

Not only. Not most important. Not the happiest day of the child's life.

For many children, Christmas or their birthday might be much happier.

They might feel guilty that they do not feel a "special" happiness on this day.

Stressing that this should be the "happiest" day implies that this is the only time they really receive Jesus; that other times are only a commemoration of the big day.

2. Don't over-emphasize the externals.

Shopping for a wardrobe, taking pictures during the "ceremony" and celebrating with a party afterwards are certainly all part of First Communion Day.

But do emphasize the spiritual, interior meaning of this day, and stress that the Eucharist will continue to be a source of strength and growth **throughout** the child's life.

3. Don't discourage chewing the host.

The Eucharist bread that we receive is food. It is intended to be eaten.

Jesus' words to us are, "Take and eat."

4. Don't give the idea that Communion is a reward.

Jesus comes to us because he loves us and we need Him.

The Eucharist is "the" sign of our unity and our love for one another.

We are given this gift even though we are weak and often experience failure.



Summary of Doctrine on the Eucharist

The greatest of the seven sacraments is the Holy Eucharist. The Catholic Church teaches that in the Eucharist, Our Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is really present under the appearances of bread and wine. Our Lord is not merely symbolized by the bread and wine; nor is he present only through the faith of those present. Rather, the two material things, bread and wine, are completely changed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, leaving behind only their sensible appearances. Thus, through the words of consecration spoken by the priest, Jesus, without ceasing to be present in a natural way in heaven, is also present sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in many places throughout the world.

The Eucharist is not only a sacrament but also a sacrifice. In it Jesus, acting through the priest, makes present again in an unbloody manner the sacrifice which he offered once for all by shedding his blood on Calvary. In Holy Communion, by obeying Jesus' command to eat his flesh and drink his blood, the faithful are also united spiritually with Jesus himself, and they unite their own prayers, works and sufferings to his perfect sacrifice.

<https://www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/euchsum.htm>

The Holy Eucharist is the Whole Christ

by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

The most fundamental question to ask about the Blessed Sacrament is, "Who is the Holy Eucharist?" And the correct answer is: The Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ.

There is more behind this answer than many Catholics realize. When the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century defined the meaning of the Eucharist, it declared that "the Body and Blood, together with the Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore the whole Christ, is truly, really and substantially contained in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist."

Shortly after Trent, Pope St. Pius V authorized the publication of the *Roman Catechism* which built on the Council of Trent and explained its teachings for the pastors of the Church.

Regarding the Real Presence, the pastors were told to explain that "in this sacrament is contained not only the true Body of Christ-and that means everything that goes to make up a true body, such as bones, nerves, and so on-but also Christ whole and entire." Consequently the Eucharist contains Jesus Christ in the fullness of his divinity and the completeness of his humanity.

Jesus is therefore in the Blessed Sacrament "whole and entire: the Soul, the Body and Blood of Christ, with all their component parts. In heaven a complete human nature is united to the divine nature in one . . . person. It is a denial of the faith to suppose that in this sacrament there is anything less."

It is not speculation but cold revealed fact that the Holy Eucharist is the Son of God who became the Son of Mary.

Whatever makes Christ, Christ, is in the Holy Eucharist; nothing less.

Consequently when we speak of *transubstantiation*, we mean that the whole substance of bread and wine, its "breadness" and "wineness," is replaced by the living and glorified Jesus Christ. What remains of what had been bread and wine is only their external properties that can be perceived by the senses. As the Greek Fathers of the Church say, the *ousia* or being of bread and wine is changed into the being or reality of Jesus Christ. On the altar after the consecration there is no longer bread and wine but the same Jesus who was crucified, died and rose from the grave; and who will come in his glory on the last day to judge the living and the dead.

Is there any real difference between Jesus in heaven and Jesus in the Eucharist? No, it is the same Jesus. The only difference is in us. We now on earth cannot see or touch him with our senses. But that is not a limitation in him; it is a limitation in us.

JESUS is really now on earth in the Eucharist.

Jesus IS really now on earth in the Eucharist.

Jesus is REALLY now on earth in the Eucharist.

Jesus is really NOW on earth in the Eucharist.

Jesus is really now ON earth in the Eucharist.

Jesus is really now on EARTH in the Eucharist.

Jesus is really now on earth IN THE EUCHARIST.

The foregoing six statements, repeated and separately emphasized, explain why the Catholic Church has defended the reality of the Real Presence so strenuously down the centuries.

What else could she do? She believes that our Lord's promise, "I will be with you all days, even to the end of the world," is being literally fulfilled in every tabernacle of the Catholic world. He is in our midst with all that makes him man, including his pulsating Sacred Heart. And he is here to continue his work of redemption by giving us the light and strength we need to serve him with all our heart.

We speak correctly of believing in the Real Presence. But we should grow in our understanding of what this implies.

The living, breathing Jesus Christ is in the Blessed Sacrament. This is the reality. When we speak of presence, however, we are saying something more.

Two people may be really near each other physically, but not present to each other spiritually. To be present to each one means to have another person in mind by being mentally aware of their existence, and to have them in one's heart by loving that other person.

What, then, is the most important implication of our belief that Jesus is on earth in the Holy Eucharist? It is our duty to cultivate an awareness of this fact and to act on the awareness with our love.

When we sing the *Tantum Ergo* at Benediction, we ask "that our faith may supply for what our senses cannot perceive." What are we saying? We profess to believe that Jesus is in the Eucharist with all the qualities of his risen humanity, although our senses cannot perceive what we know, on faith, is true.

The reality of the Eucharist is clear. It is Jesus of Nazareth who was born of the Virgin Mary. But we must make ourselves mentally conscious of this reality and voluntarily respond to what we believe.

Jesus is on earth in the Blessed Sacrament. Why? In order that we might come to him now no less than his contemporaries did in first century Palestine. If we thus approach him in loving faith, there is no limit to the astounding things he will do. Why not? In the Eucharist he has the same human lips that told the raging storm, "Be still" and commanded the dead man, "Lazarus, come forth!"

There are no limitations to Christ's power, as God, which he exercises through his humanity in the Eucharist. The only limitation is our own weakness of faith or lack of confidence in his almighty love.

Taken from the November-December issue of "Soul Magazine."
Published by the World Apostolate of Fatima (Blue Army), Washington, NJ.
<https://www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/eucha5.htm>

Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

(from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

On November 14, 1996, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following guidelines on the reception of communion. These guidelines replace the guidelines approved by the Administrative Committee of the NCCB in November 1986. The guidelines, which are to be included in missalettes and other participation aids published in the United States, seek to remind all those who may attend Catholic liturgies of the present discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of Eucharistic communion.

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches.

According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/guidelines-for-the-reception-of-communion.cfm>

2018 - 19

St. Mary and St. John the Baptist First Communion - Special Dates

For St. Mary Grade School & St. Mary and St. John Faith Formation

All meeting will be at St. Mary

Parents should plan on being at all of the following Special Dates

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Place</u>
Wednesday	1-9-19	6 pm	Parent Meeting	
Wednesday	1-30-19	6 pm	Mass Explained	
Saturday	3-16-19	9 am – Noon	First Communion Retreat	Cafeteria
Wednesday	4-24-19	6 pm	Rehearsal	Church
Sunday	4-28-19	10:30 am	First Communion Mass	Church

Please be in cafeteria by 9:48 am to line up for church procession!



Reconciliation Times: (Please try to go to Reconciliation again just prior to First Communion.)

St. Mary

Saturday 5:30-5:50 pm before Mass

Tuesday and Friday 7:45-8:00 am before Mass

** There is a Family Reconciliation night March 14, at 6 pm with the Faith Formation Students and open to the public.

St. John the Baptist

Saturday 3-3:45 pm before Mass

Wednesday and Thursday 7:00-7:15 am before Mass

St. Patrick's

Sunday 9:45-10:15 am before Mass



First Communion Banner Instructions

Needed:

- White felt (18 x 12).
- Yarn (20 inches)
- Small pieces of several kinds of felt (examples: green and dark purple, and yellow).
- Thin round dowels 14 inches long to insert at the top of the banner
- Stencils, glue for fabric, pencil, and scissors.

Procedure: This is only a guide. You may be creative! Just be sure to have child's name or first name and last initial visible on the banner. We will be hanging these on his/her pew in church for their First Communion Day.

1. Take the white large piece of felt as your background. Turn down the top about one-inch and glue or sew the edge only, so the dowel can be easily inserted later on.
2. Use the other colors to make and cut out letters for your child's name. You can also use fabric paint; or colored glitter glue for the name. Just be sure to have the child's first and at least the last initial on it.
3. You can use the stencils enclosed or any design of your choice. You can use whatever combination you want, or use one of your own. Just arrange your design before you glue; to make sure it looks like what your child wants.
4. When you have the arrangement you want, glue the items to the felt background. Be sure the edges are glued securely.
5. When all the glue is dried, you may insert the dowel and tie the yarn onto both ends of the dowel. You are finished! Hand it in to your teacher or to someone in the parish office!

Please be sure to hand it in to their teacher/catechist/parish office before rehearsal or bring to the rehearsal on Wednesday, April 24.

Examples...

