

First Communion 2021 FAQ's



What is the parish doing to help reduce the spread of Covid19? We continue to follow the guidelines received from the Diocese and our Governor.

We ask that everyone continue to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer upon entering Church and after receiving Communion.

In an effort to follow social distancing guidelines, we have marked off every other pew in the church and sanitize after each Mass.

We will continue to monitor the guidelines and make changes where needed. One thing that has remained a constant throughout this entire time is that things change, sometimes daily. We need to stay flexible and be open to what is best for our community. We will

certainly keep you up to date as we go along.

I feel like my child is not prepared for his/her First Communion.... Children learn what they live. The more you attend Mass, the deeper they will understand. Although we could not celebrate the Communion Retreat, the videos we will send home, your continued work on the Journal, and your family attending Mass (or watching on YouTube if you cannot attend in-person for health reasons) will help your child prepare their heart for receiving First Communion and all those which follow. At your child's baptism, you promised to be their first teachers in the ways of the Faith. God chose you as the parent for your child. Do your best to share your faith and all will be well.

My children have not left the house since last year. They haven't even played with the neighbor kids. We aren't ready to come to church yet... If you haven't left the house and don't feel your family is ready to return to Mass yet, you are welcome to wait until you feel it is time for your child to make their First Communion. There is no time limit on the Sacrament. Just call or reply to this email and we can work something out.

Why aren't we doing the Large Group First Communion Masses?

With Social Distancing, we didn't want to limit the number of family members and guests that could attend the First Communion Mass, so we limited the number of communicants at each Mass with unlimited guests for each family at Mass.

Sacraments are communal and take place in the context of the parish. Although our children attend various faith formation programs (Day School, PSR, Good Shepherd), Sacraments are celebrated in the context of the parish community. We hope that families will continue to celebrate Eucharist in the context of the parish. First Communion is not a one and done; it is the beginning of weekly Mass attendance and Communion.

Why couldn't we just have added more Masses and had a couple of smaller 'large Group' communions with just the First Communion Families? We really can't schedule any more Masses due to sanitizing the Church in between Masses. Again, sacraments are celebrated in the context of the parish community.

Our children wanted to be with their friends when they make their First Communion. Your child can be with his or her friends as they support their friends by attending the Mass at which they make their First Communion. The best part of receiving your First Communion, is that your second and third Communions can be with your friend's at their First Communion.

How do we receive Communion with a Mask?

[Click Here](#) to view a video on how to receive communion with a mask on.

Will all the First Communion Masses be Video recorded? We don't have the staff to video each Mass. We are encouraging people to come to Mass when they feel ready.

When will we have our religious articles blessed? There will be a special blessing of the First Communicants and any religious articles during the final blessing at Mass.

What are the First Eucharist Dress Guidelines?

- Boys wear dress pants, dress shoes, and a shirt and tie (jacket is optional).
- Girls wear a white dress, dress shoes, tights or dress socks (veil and gloves are optional; if wearing gloves, please remove before coming up for communion).
- At this time, facemasks are required. Please [watch a video](#) that will help explain this process.

When can we take Pictures?

As usual, we will ask you and your guests not to take pictures during Mass so that you can participate in the sacredness of the Liturgy and receive Jesus into your hearts.

You may take pictures at the Shrine before and after Mass or at any time.

There are two dedicated times that the church will be available for pictures on **May 8th, 2021 and June 19th 2021 from 1:00 – 3:00**. You can sign up for pictures in the Church [HERE](#). Due to the need to sanitize the church after it is used, we need to schedule all picture times.

Again, if you have any questions, please reply to this email or call or text me at 440-655-6799.

Know that you remain in our prayers.