

## First Communion Day 2021

Each Mass will accommodate four (4) First Communion families. There is no limit on the number of guests you invite to Mass.

You will need to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start time of your Mass and meet in the Gathering Area (Mom, Dad & 1<sup>st</sup> Communicant) to go over the procedures for processing in and receiving Communion.

Each family will have assigned seating (a pew in the center section of the church and the corresponding short pew on the side). Parents will sit with their first communicant in the center section along with any siblings and members of the same household. Additional family/guests can sit in the reserved side pew.

Your family (mom, dad and child) will be part of the Entrance Procession and will receive mention in the Prayers of the Faithful. Because of the directives during the pandemic, we are not doing the Offertory Procession at the Presentation of the Gifts.

At Communion time, the First Communicant and their parents will come up to receive as a family unit, following our regular communion process. The sharing of the Precious Blood is suspended at this time.

*Families with special needs or health concerns that would be more comfortable having their child make the First Communion at a weekday Mass should contact Deacon Bob.*

**Staying Safe:** We continue to follow the guidelines received from the Diocese and our Governor. We ask that everyone 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.

### **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 for a video that will help explain this process.

**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.
- 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 each month for pictures on **May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 1:00 – 3:00** and **June 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Blessing religious articles**

- There will be a special blessing of the First Communicants and any religious articles during the final blessing at Mass.

We realize this has a very different look that what we are used. What hasn't changed is you and your child experiencing Jesus in the presence of the Eucharist. It is very exciting that we will be celebrating First Eucharist with you and our parish community. Please let me know if you need further information or have any questions. My cell is 440-655-6799. Please text, call or reply to this email.

Peace,  
Deacon Bob