

St. Joseph Parish

First Holy Communion



Parent Information

March 2021

First Holy Communion Rehearsal and Mass Schedule

Rehearsal Schedule

Group 1 - Tuesday, April 27th 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Group 2 - Wednesday, April 28th 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Group 3 - Tuesday, May 4th 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mass Schedule

Group 1 - Saturday, May 1st @ 10:30 a.m.

Group 2 - Saturday, May 1st @ 1:00 p.m.

Group 3 - Saturday, May 8th @ 10:30 a.m.

First Holy Communion Mass Details

Children should arrive by

Group 1 10:15 a.m. Hang banner on pew
Meet in Hall

Group 2 12:45 p.m. Hang banner on pew
Meet in Hall

Group 3 10:15 a.m. Hang banner on pew
Meet in Hall

Parking:

Group 1 and 3 families arriving early for individual pictures should plan on parking at St. Joseph School, 15 Gould Street, as daily Mass participants will be parked in the church parking lots. If your family is arriving at 10:15 a.m. you may park in the church parking lots or on the street.

Group 2 families can park in the church parking lots or street.

Please remind your guests not to park in the parking lot of local businesses. The Harvard Mills garage is no longer available.

First Holy Communion Banner:

First Communion Banner Kits are available to purchase for \$15.00 each. If you would like to make your own banner please see Diane for instructions and dimensions.

Examples of First Holy Communion Banners



Clothing:

Girls are asked to dress in a white dress, below the knee in length, shoulders should be covered. We also suggest white low-heeled dress shoes. Headpieces/veils and gloves may also be worn. Please remove the gloves before receiving Communion.

Boys are asked to wear a white suit, white shirt and white tie with white shoes OR a navy blue blazer, khaki pants, white shirt and white tie with dress shoes.

Pictures and Videos

Due to the solemnity of the Mass, we ask that no one take pictures/videos or move around the Church in order to take pictures/videos during the ceremony. Please be sure to share this information with all your guests.

Photography:

A professional photographer from O'Connor Studios will be available for photos of this special day. They will provide individual pictures of your child before Mass and a picture of your child receiving First Communion.

Individual First Holy Communion Pictures before Mass:

Your child should arrive an hour before Mass if you intend to have your child's picture taken. Pictures are taken on a first come, first served basis.

Individual First Holy Communion Picture of Receiving:

Individual pictures of your child receiving his/her First Holy Communion will also be taken.

First Holy Communion Mass Recorded:

The entire Mass will be video recorded and posted to our website for you or your family to view.

May Procession:

On Sunday, May 2nd and Sunday, May 9th at the 9:00 a.m. Family Mass, all First Communicants will participate in the May Procession in their First Holy Communion attire.

The students will meet at 8:45 a.m. in Father Gillis Hall and will process in and out as a group. The children will sit together at the Mass adhering to social distancing protocols. Please meet your child in the hall after Mass.



How to receive Holy Communion

Please try to practice this with your child at home. Thank you for all your support as we prepare for this special and holy occasion.

- ♦ Approach the altar with prayer hands in front of you.
- ♦ When you have reached the priest (Fr. Ron), bow before Jesus.
- ♦ Place **DOMINANT** hand under other hand to prepare to receive Jesus. In other words “Make a plate!”
- ♦ The priest (Fr. Ron) will say “The Body of Christ” and place the Host in your hand.
- ♦ Say **AMEN**. Step aside, pick up the Host with your **DOMINANT** hand and place the Host in your mouth.
- ♦ Walk back to the pew with hands together, kneel and pray thanking God for this awesome gift and for all your blessings.
- ♦ Remain kneeling until the Tabernacle is closed.