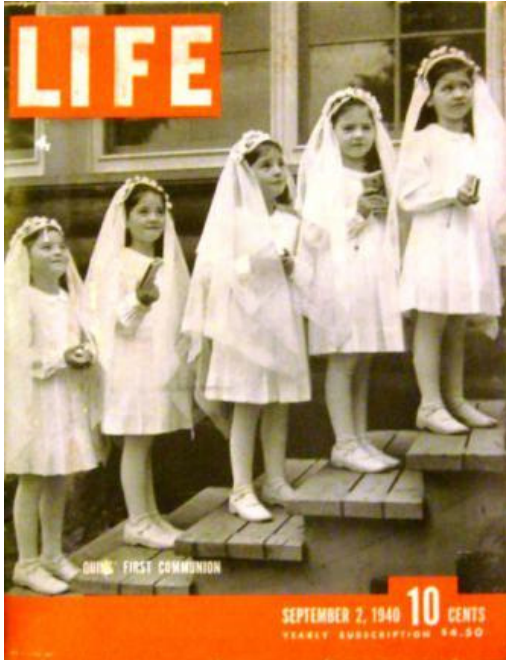


What do the children wear on their First Holy Communion Day ?



The recommendations for First Communion attire at Saint Raphael Parish are simple:

- They should wear special clothes that they would wear to Mass on a Sunday or Easter.
- No jeans or t-shirts.

Girls: Traditionally, girls wear a white dress, which is a symbol of purity and a reminder of their Baptism. We do not *require* a white dress or a veil. If your daughter, does not wear dresses, a nice pants outfit is fine. If she wants to wear pink, or a dress she wore as a flower girl in a wedding, that's fine, too.

We do not require a veil. About half of our girls wear veils, others choose flowers, ribbons or a tiara. Because the Catholic Church no longer requires women to cover their heads at Mass, it's acceptable if our girls wear nothing on their head.

Boys: We do not require you to purchase a suit or a sport coat. If you have one, or want your son to wear one, that's fine. About half of our male students wear a sport coat on First Communion day. Boys should wear a shirt with a collar. A tie is good, but not required. Dress pants, or nice Dockers are fine. No specific color of pant, shirt or tie is required. Many wear khaki pants, a white or blue shirt and a blue sport coat. Others wear dark pants and a white shirt with no sport coat.

Because attire for weekly Mass has become more casual, some of our children don't own "dress" shoes. If your child doesn't and there is no plan to buy them, they should wear their best shoes.

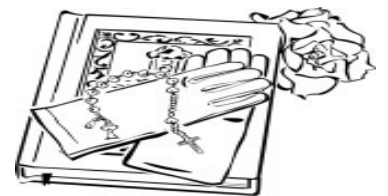


Nice for pictures, but not for Mass: It's great to give your child a holy gift for First Communion, such as a prayer book or rosary. PLEASE DO NOT BRING THEM TO MASS ON FIRST COMMUNION DAY!

Also, **girls are not permitted to wear gloves.** They look beautiful in pictures, but the children play with them in the pew, and it's difficult to pick up the host or hold the cup of the Precious Blood of Jesus in their little hands when wearing gloves. Also, if your child brings shawl, a sweater or a purse that day, we ask you to hold on to them in your pew.

When will a priest or deacon bless my child's religious items?

Statues, prayer books, crosses, necklaces, rosaries and other religious items are blessed on your child's May Crowning Day.



Your child wears their First Communion outfit 3 times!

Dress Rehearsal, First Communion Day and May Crowning!

Dress Rehearsals for First Communion are: May 2nd (Morning Communion) and **May 3rd** (Afternoon Communion). A Group Picture will be taken each of these evenings. We ask that all children keep on their First Communion outfits for the Practice. They will not get dirty! **Picture order envelopes will be distributed at the April 1st Retreat day.**

Saint Raphael School May Crowning: Friday, May 12th at 1:45 p.m. (Items will be blessed at 1:20 p.m. in your child's classroom). The children bring their outfits to school and change clothes at St. Raphael.

Saint Raphael PSR / Parish May Crowning: Monday, May 15th at 7 p.m. in the Church. All PSR and Ruffing Montessori students should arrive at 6:40 p.m. to line up in the Lunchroom. Children wear their Communion outfits. Parents should hold the items to be blessed and take them to Church.