

Important Notes for Your First Communion MASS

*(For Everyone: Your banner must be at the Parish Office by May 3rd.
Make sure your child's name & Communion Mass time is on the back!)*

First Communion Day is Saturday, May 6th

- ◆ PRACTICE FOR THE MORNING GROUP WILL BE HELD ON
 - **Tuesday evening, May 2nd from 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- ◆ PRACTICE FOR THE AFTERNOON COMMUNION GROUP WILL BE HELD ON
 - **Wednesday evening, May 3rd from 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- ◆ **For practice nights:**
 - Children should wear their First Communion outfits.
 - Children should be dropped off and picked up at the Lunchroom. **PLEASE BE PROMPT!!**
 - Parents do not need to attend. You are welcome to stay if you wish.
- ◆ Picture orders are due on the evening of your child's practice.
- ◆ Group Pictures will be taken in the church at the beginning of practice (about 6:45 p.m.)
- ◆ PLEASE REFRAIN from taking pictures while the professional photographer is taking pictures. The extra flashes throw off the light sensors which must be used. We will keep the children on the altar steps following the professional picture to allow families to take pictures for a few minutes.
- ◆ Children will have assigned seats. Parents will be notified of their child's seat location in a letter that we will send home on Dress Rehearsal night. All children will be seated in the Center Section of church (Rows 1-7 on each side).
- ◆ Approximately 80 children will be at each of the First Communion Masses. This leaves 1,126 seats remaining for families (about 14 per family). We will not be reserving pews for parents or families. First Communion seating will be Open Seating, which we estimate will begin in pew 8. Plan to arrive 30 minutes before Mass to get a seat.
- ◆ **ON THE DAY OF COMMUNION:** Your child must be **in their seat in the Lunchroom** at **9:30 a.m.** (Morning Group) OR **12:30 p.m.** (Afternoon Group).

The teachers will take the children for a final rest room break prior to Mass, if needed.
- ◆ Banners will be hung randomly throughout the church on the OPEN SEATING PEWS. Feel free to sit in any pew. The children's pews (Row 1-7 in the Center Aisle) will be designated with bows & flowers.
- ◆ During the First Communion Entrance Procession, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE IN A WORSHIP SPACE. Please do not wave or shout at the children as they process in.
- ◆ You are allowed to take pictures in church, **but:**
 - You MUST remain in your pew
 - No flash is allowed.
 - No pictures during the Consecration of the Mass or while your child receives Communion. That will be taken by a professional photographer.
- ◆ Following the Communion Mass, please send one person from your family to the Lunchroom to pick up your child and their First Communion certificate in the Lunchroom. Father Tim and Father Ryan will be available in the church for pictures with your child following the Mass.
- ◆ Our church and property offers beautiful backgrounds for photos: Outside, consider the Mary statue in the front yard; Inside the church (the Franciscan Chapel is not available), go to the stained glass windows along the side walls. There is also Good Shepherd Square and the Prayer Garden!
- ◆ Come back to church on Sunday, May 7th. First Communion Mass does not fulfill your obligation.