

Preparation for First Holy Communion Spring 2020

~Dates for First Holy Communion will be given out in early October~

- ~ Take your child to **Mass regularly**, Masses are Saturday **5pm**, Sun **7:30, 9, 10:30 (children's mass)**, **12 noon and Sunday at 5pm**. Even if you haven't been to Church in a while, all are always welcome.
- **Mass of Enrollment**~ any Mass the weekend of October 19th & 20th. **Please bring a wallet size photo of your child.**
- **Reconciliation workshop**- You will be assigned one; dates are either Wed Nov. 20th or Tues. Dec. 4 at 4:30 or 6 pm.
- **First Reconciliation**, "Celebration of Forgiveness"- You will be assigned a date.
- ~ **First Holy Communion Workshop**. Bring the whole family! Grandmas and Grandpas, Aunts and Uncles too! All invited to attend the First Holy Communion Family Workshop. The workshop is two hours and is a family-centered experience. The workshop will be assigned by teacher.
- ~ Thursday, Oct. 24th, **Meet the Priests**, 5:30 pm in the church. Children and parents will have a chance to ask our priests any questions at all about our Mass, the Eucharist etc.
- ~ Mar. 7 or 8th, attend any Mass for **Presentation of the Cross**. Each child will receive a blessing from the community and a small cross.
- ~ Attend **one class Mass**. Teachers will choose the Mass for their class.
- ~ **First Holy Communion Breakfast**, Sunday, June 7th beginning with the 10:30 mass. Breakfast immediately following Mass in the Lower Level.

All students receiving First Holy Communion are to attend the rehearsal (all children must be accompanied by an adult for rehearsal, i.e. Parent, baby sitter, grandparent, etc.)

For FAQ on First Holy Communion please turn over



FAQ on First Holy Communion.....

1. Will my child have a chance to taste/practice with the unblessed host first?
Yes, in their class and at rehearsal, if you are home-teaching or a catholic school family, please just ask we can give you a few to practice with if you like.
2. Why do we bow our heads as the priest, or Eucharistic minister, is saying "Body, (Blood). Of Christ"? We never learned that! *You're right; we never learned that because it is something new in the past few years or so. We bow before saying "Amen" and taking the host or cup to show reverence for the presence of God in front of us.*
3. Will I be receiving at the same time as my child? *Yes, two significant adults in the life of the child, usually parents but each family is different, are asked to come up front and present the child by name. You will receive right after your child.*
4. What if my spouse isn't Catholic? *They are certainly welcome to come forward too, and simply fold their arms across their chest to receive a special blessing. In fact in our church we welcome all people who won't be receiving for any reason to come forward at communion time and in this way receive a blessing.*
5. What about dress for the children? *For girls, white is the traditional color for their dresses. A veil or hair decoration is optional. When they walk into church at the beginning of Mass, we ask them not to have gloves, flowers, rosary beads etc. in their hands as it can be distracting and upsetting if petals drop, a glove gets lost etc. For boys, a few wear white suits; most wear a little sport coat, shirt and tie, (suits any color is fine too.) Armbands are not required, but if your son will wear one, putting it on the right arm is traditional. We have many donated dresses and suits; some of them are brand new, if you would like to 'shop' here in our closet. These items are free.*
6. What's a banner and do I need one? *Banners are a tradition here at St. John Nepomucene. They are hung on the end of a pew on the day of First Holy Communion. They usually have symbols on the Eucharist - bread and wine, Jesus etc., and the child's name, sometimes the date, They are usually made from felt and are about 8 1/2 X 11". These will be available starting in February. (You do not need a banner and you certainly don't need to buy a kit from us, we just provide them in case it can help make your life easier.)*
7. Why do I have to take my child to church every Sunday? Isn't going to class enough? *Since First Holy Communion is the second sacrament of initiation, it is good for the children to be familiar with what they are being initiated into. Receiving the Body of Christ as often as we can is the greatest privilege of being Catholic! Children also learn best from their parents, after all they live with you, and we only see them for about 28 hours the whole year! As Catholics we begin our good lives by sharing what Jesus has to offer us in the consecrated host, his true self, at each mass. We know we can't go it alone, what a great and hope filled experience for us and our families! All are welcomed, if you've been away from Mass for whatever reason; no questions asked of course- just come and be with Jesus and your community of faith!*