



*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.*

(Matthew 26: 26-28)

April 8, 2021

Dear Parents of First Communion Class 2021,

The words of Jesus at the Last Supper, "*Eat my Body. Drink my Blood,*" are an invitation to all of us when we receive the Eucharist. The First Communicants will receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time on Saturday, May 1, 2021. We will join together for Mass at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate this special sacrament. Your family has been preparing for this special day since the time of your child's birth. We here at Holy Family are excited to celebrate with all of the children as well.

We continue to practice the COVID restrictions as passed down to us through the Bishops of Ohio and our own Diocese. Masks and the practice of social distancing are a must. Attendance will be limited to the Communion class, their parents, and the brothers and sisters of those in the class. We are sorry, but grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family members will not be able to join us. Since the numbers of those who will be able to attend in person will be limited, we will be livestreaming the Mass.

Parents should practice how to receive Communion with their child, as well as reverence in Church, genuflection and quiet attentiveness.

Please remember that everyone is required to wear a mask

Practice reverence in approaching and receiving the Eucharist:

- ♥ Move forward in the procession with hands folded. (maintain a 6 foot distance)
- ♥ Show respect for Jesus present in the Eucharist by making a reverent head bow
- ♥ Place one hand over the other forming a cross, dominant hand underneath.
- ♥ The priest will say "Body of Christ," and you answer "Amen"
- ♥ Extend crossed hands to receive the Host.
- ♥ Step to the side and...
- ♥ ...With the hand from underneath (lift mask) then, take the host and place it in your mouth.
- ♥ Fold hands as you walk slowly back to your seat. (follow directional pattern indicated on the floor)

During class we will also give children the opportunity to know how the bread tastes, to make sure they are comfortable with the taste and texture.

In preparation for First Eucharist, we will have practice on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

*Who:* All First Communion Students  
(One parent may attend the practice, but is not required)

*When:* Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

*Where:* PSR students please report to class as usual.  
Teachers will bring students to Church for practice.  
All other students meet in Church.  
Please use the main Church door

NOTE: Masks Required

**First Holy Communion Mass is at 6:30 pm., Saturday, May 1, 2021.**  
**To allow for sanitizing the Church before Mass,**  
**please know that the doors of the Church will not open until 6:10 pm.**  
**The family will sit with their child in assigned pews.**

*Dress:*

**Boys:** Dark dress pants and white shirts and white, navy or black tie. Suit jackets are optional.

**Girls:** White dress and veil. No gloves, bracelets, purses, rosaries or prayer books.

**All:** Masks are required

*Pictures*

**Please NO pictures or videos during the Mass.** This is a distraction from our full participation and the children's attention and participation in the Mass. You are welcome to take family pictures in the Church or on the grounds following the Mass, but please respect one another and social distance.

We continue to pray for all of those preparing to receive sacraments. May God bless you and your families as we continue to prepare for the gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours in Christ,

Sister Yvonne