



FIRST COMMUNION DAY DIRECTIVES 2021

Celebrating the First Sacrament of the Eucharist

Note: All participants must wear a mask for the duration of the service

Guiding Steps:

Arrival

- Park in Main Lot (South Side of Church).
- **Parents, Communicant(s) and 2 guests** should arrive one half hour before the start of Mass. Staff will guide you to reserved seating nearest the altar.
- **Communion Certificates with the child's name and ceremony booklets** will be placed in reserved pews.
- Please place all cell phones on silent mode for the duration of the Mass.

Sacramental Steps:

- First Holy Communion reception begins with the first row.
- First Communicant will kneel (kneeler will be placed center in front of altar).
- Each child will come into the middle aisle with his/her parent(s) standing behind them.
- Walking up towards the altar, the Communicant(s) should have hands ready to receive Communion (see photo below).
- Parent can slip mask under their child's chin just before he/she receives the Eucharist.
- If you have twins, decide whether they will receive separately or together.
- First Communicants respond "**AMEN**" just before receiving.



One hand receives and the other is the "throne" position for the receiving hand

Only the Communicant(s) receives at this time. Children who have received First Holy Communion will then turn right or left with their parents to return to their original seats.

Parents/siblings can receive Communion as part of the larger congregation.

Please advise us if your child has Celiac Disease or any medical condition that hampers reception of the host. Family and friends will receive Communion after the First Communicants are finished.

Pictures may be taken after the Mass. Priests usually remain after the Mass in case you would like to take an individual picture.

The First Celebration of the Eucharist



Jesus began the Last Supper with a psalm praising God. He then took the bread, gave thanks for it and said: “Take and eat. This is my body that will be given up for you.” This bread was now his body. It would be given up, that is offered on the cross – ***this was the first celebration of the Eucharist.***

At the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup filled with wine and said, “Take and drink. This is my blood. It will be shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.” As they drank of the one cup and ate of the one bread **they experienced their unity in Christ.**

Finally, Christ gave them and their successors the power to celebrate Eucharist: **“Do this in memory of me.”** They all sang a psalm and Jesus went forth to his saving death and Resurrection. In this event, Jesus gave all of us the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Your child will now receive this gift in Christ!