

Dear Parents of First Communicants:

Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist is a wondrous gift and there are few events more beautiful here at St. Patrick's than a child's ***First Holy Communion weekend***. This year your child will be privileged to participate in the classes that will prepare them for this sacred Event. Their First Holy Communion Weekend will encompass their First Communion Day ... and then a Reunion Gathering for them the next morning at 10:30 am Sunday Mass followed by a First Communion Reception in their honor hosted by St. Pat's parishioners. The weekend will be a blessed memory!

Classes to prepare your children for First Penance and First Communion will begin the week of September 22nd (see Religious Ed. Calendar on web site) and we would like to take this opportunity to let you know details.

First, we would like to invite you to a **PARENTS MEETING FOR ALL SECOND-GRADE PARENTS ON Monday, October 21st, AT 7PM** where you will be taken on an introspective journey about your faithlife and what you expect to be the faithlife of your child. We promise not to take up too much of your time, but we do expect you to come and we know you will walk away believing that the time you spent was well worthwhile.

In addition to the meeting, below are dates and information that will be important to you regarding First Penance and First Communion Weekend. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Golden at jo14golden@gmail.com.

FIRST PENANCE...SATURDAY, February 1, 2020 AT 10 AM

First Penance will take place on Saturday, February 1st at 10am. Attendance is mandatory. A parent or parents are invited to come into the Church and sit in the pews along the back to be there for their child. No siblings in the Church during First Penance please, but a parent can wait in Wallace Hall with a sibling. The second-graders can leave one by one with a parent once they have gone to confession and said their penance. There will be light informal refreshments following the service in Wallace for those who would like to "decompress" or wait for a friend. More details to follow.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE AND PRACTICES

Two Communion ceremonies will be held this year to accommodate the number of Communicants in the program and their families:

-Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 at 10:00 AM – For children who attend CCD classes on Sunday and Monday.

-Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 at 1:00 PM – For children who attend CCD classes on Wednesday

Children need to arrive at Wallace Hall 30 minutes before the start of their ceremony. If you need to change your child's Communion time, please contact Allanna in the Religious Education Office. Also, if your child was not baptized at St. Patrick's and you have not yet done so in the past, please turn in a copy of your child's baptismal certificate ASAP to the Religious Education Office.

The Communion Rehearsal Schedule is listed below. These rehearsals are mandatory.

-For the 10:00AM Communion Ceremony – Monday, 4/27, and Tuesday, 4/28, from 3:45 – 5:00 PM

-For the 1:00 PM Communion Ceremony – Wednesday, 4/29, and Thursday, 4/30, from 3:45 – 5:00 PM

Activity Buses will be available for all 4 rehearsal days

COMMUNION ATTIRE & FLOWERS

To ease questions regarding communion attire, please review the recommendations:

Boys: Dress slacks with white dress shirt, sports jacket and tie or suit, white dress shirt and tie. Tie is not optional.

Girls: White or ivory dress veil/headpiece optional.

PLEASE NO FLOWERS WORN OR CARRIED, NO PURSES OR GLOVES DURING THE CHURCH CEREMONY...THEY ONLY SERVE AS A DISTRACTION.

TEACHER GIFTS

To show our appreciation and to recognize the teachers who have given so much of their time to prepare our children for the sacraments of Penance and Communion, we will be collecting a donation of \$15 per child. We plan to present each of the teachers with a gift certificate at the Communion Mass. Your generosity is much appreciated. Please make any checks payable to St. Patrick's Religious Education and drop them off in an envelope to the Religious Ed Office.

COMMUNION REUNION MASS

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020 AT 10:30 AM

All First Communion recipients are invited to celebrate with their fellow Communicants and with the parish community as a whole during the 10:30 AM Mass the day after their First Communion on Sunday, May 3rd. The children are encouraged to wear their communion attire to this Mass. A reception hosted by St. Pat's parishioners will follow the Mass in Wallace Hall.