



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

Freedom from Addiction

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

An Easter Note from Monsignor Eckert!

Looking at my First Holy Communion picture from 68 years ago brings back a lot of memories. I couldn't wait to receive our Lord that day. What is Jesus going to taste like? What if the Host gets stuck on the roof of my mouth? Everything went fine and I realized that my First Communion day was starting something that is still happening, at least for me every day, which is being able to receive Jesus. My dad used to say "absence makes the heart grow fonder". I hope that sentiment is true for you who are not able to celebrate Mass and receive our Lord in Holy Communion. We can take important things for granted yet I pray that when all of us can gather together as family again around our altar, we will be all the more appreciative of the great gift God has given us in the Eucharist. Until then, pray together at home: before meals, before bed, read some Gospel passages, especially St. Luke's Gospel (it's not that long). God bless all of you! Know that you are missed and loved. May we praise God together again in the near future.

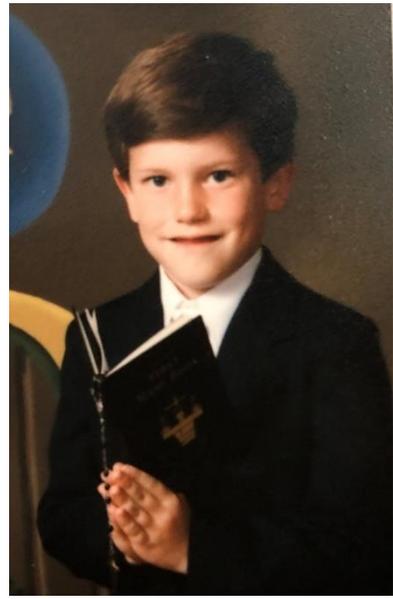
First Communion Quarantine: Mrs. McDowell's Own Story!

My First Communion Day is one of the most vivid days of my childhood. I recall studying for the event, and going over the questions a million times with both my mom and my dad. Like every Catholic girl, I was so very excited to pick out my dress, and at that time, money was not easy for my parents, so I recall my mother paying two dollars a week, until the dress was paid off--I am certain at a very modest price. I recall trying on shoes, and then came the veil--no real decision there, all 85 girls in my class wore the same veil, and the boys wore the same tie. The party was planned, again a very modest house party with family and neighbors. The excitement was mounting, and then, fate played its part. I was diagnosed with scarlet fever, which at the time, was very serious, and I had to be quarantined. Each day, the doctor arrived early in the morning before going to his office, or late in the evening, after seeing patients, to check my progress. Each day, the same response, the fever was still high and I could not return to any activity. For a while, I was too sick to be bothered, but then, I started to feel a little better and I knew First Communion Day was approaching. To the disappointment of all, I could not make my First Communion with my class, and that morning, I cried as I sat at my bedroom window and watched everyone heading to church, all dressed in white for the big event. For me, First Communion was delayed for a couple of months, but the Pastor of my parish wanted it to be special, so I made my First Communion, in my white dress and veil, on Christmas Day, the birthday of Baby Jesus---what a perfect ending to the story.



As a special Easter treat for us during this time of being separated by quarantine, a dozen of our HTS faculty and staff have sent in pictures of themselves as kids at Easter or First Communion. Can you guess who is who???? (Answers below)





- And the answers are....
1. Miss Giltz
 2. Monsignor Eckert
 3. Mrs. Gen Haney
 4. Mrs. Hahn
 5. Miss A.
 6. Mr. Judge
 7. Mrs. Horn
 8. Mrs. Bohl
 9. Mrs. Olivia Haney
 10. Mrs. Pirraglia
 11. Mrs. Preston
 12. Mr. McCusker