



# **CHURCH OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT**

**Family Information Packet**  
**Sacrament of First Eucharist**  
**2020-2021**

# **First Holy Communion**

## **In Context**

Families look forward to seeing their child receive the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time. It is central to our tradition because it announces that this person can now receive the body and blood of Our Lord and Savior. This is the source and summit (Adapted from Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium* 11) of our Catholic faith. It is the ritual Jesus performed with his disciples the night before he died and that we recall each time we celebrate the Mass. Jesus offers us his body and blood in the appearance of bread and wine, and in doing so we are mystically united to him and to the entire body of Christ, the Church, the people of God.

In the early Church it was the final step in initiation, the sacrament a person received when they were finally ready to understand the gift God offers to us all. Today it has become such a big event that often the celebration of First Communion for the child overshadows the reason for it. The real purpose of this sacrament is to continue the Catholic initiation begun at your child's Baptism. It marks a step along the way of coming to know God: The God who gives us life itself and provides the very nourishment that strengthens us to be holy people, the God with whom we will hopefully one day be united forever in Heaven.

## **Overall Family Participation**

Families should establish two habits, if they aren't in place already:

**First**, come to Mass each week. If some pattern of regular Mass attendance is not established as a family habit, children will not understand First Eucharist and they will have little basis for practicing their Catholic faith as they get older. It is the best habit we can help our children to form.

**Second**, pray at home each day. It could be a prayer in the morning, a prayer before meals, an evening prayer or a bedtime prayer. Praying the rosary is a wonderful habit for all of us. Praying the Our Father enables them to more fully participate at Mass. You should begin and end with the sign of the Cross.

***KEEP IN MIND***

***SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASK WEARING***

## First Holy Communion Day Dates 2020 - 2021

Group	Date	Time	
St. Gregory Academy & Religious Education Grade 2A	Saturday, MAY 1, 2021	10:00AM	

Group	Date	Time	
Religious Education Grades 2B & 2C	Saturday, MAY 1, 2021	1:00PM	

Group	Date	Time	
Religious Education Grades 2D & 2E	Saturday, MAY 8, 2021	10:00AM	

<u>Section</u>	<u>Catechist</u>	<u>St. Gregory Academy Teachers</u>
2A	Keri Carlton	Mrs. Regina Ratzlaff
2B	Patricia Nardo	Mrs. Maureen Satz
2C	Stephanie Henderson	Mrs. Kara DeBonis
2D	Hillary McWhorter	
2E	Starr Salvatore	

## **First Holy Communion Day**

Parents should bring the children to the Church **30 minutes** ahead of their scheduled First Holy Communion time. The children will sit with their parents.

**ONLY the parents** will process up with the child to receive communion.

## **Photography**

**Please note that NO ONE is permitted to go in the sanctuary during Mass.**

You are **ONLY** permitted to take pictures from your pew. Family photos may be taken in the sanctuary by the altar after Mass. We are planning on having a photographer to take a picture when your child goes up to receive. Details will follow.

Please complete the Permission to Photograph form enclosed in this packet and Return the form to the Religious Education office by **April 1, 2021**.

## **Dress Code**

This is a very special occasion in Church for very young children. Girls' dresses should be a traditional white Communion dress. Veils are optional. Please do not allow the children to bring gloves, purses, flowers, corsages, prayer books, or rosaries. While all of these items are lovely, they will only distract from the child's reception of their First Holy Communion. Boys are asked to wear a black, navy blue or white suit with dress shoes and a tie.

# St. Gregory the Great Religious Education

## Permission to Photograph

Dear Parent/Guardian:

St. Gregory the Great Religious Education will highlight activities and accomplishments of our students and catechists in various media outlets. It will be our policy **not** to publish the addresses of our students, but to periodically use these images in religious education materials and videos. We will also post these photos to our St. Gregory the Great Religious Education website and parish Facebook page. Additionally, throughout the school year, many photos from school Masses, events, and holiday parties will be added to the St. Gregory the Great's website.

I **DO** agree to allow St. Gregory the Great Religious Education Office to use photographs of my child/children in any religious education materials, in print or online.

I **DO NOT** agree to allow St. Gregory the Great Religious Education Office to use photographs of my child/children in any religious education materials, in print or online.

Name & Grade of Student(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to the  
St. Gregory the Great Religious Education Office by April 1, 2021*

## **Reception of Consecrated Host**

The children will process up with their parents to receive communion. They will have the option to receive in the hand or on their tongue. In lieu of health concerns, Eucharist will be given in the hand only. Parents will receive after the child. If your child has an allergy to wheat, please indicate it on the Documentation Page that is included in this packet. No Precious Blood will be offered.

On the next page are the Guidelines for Receiving Communion as a guide for parents, friends and family members in attendance. Additional information can be found on the website below:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/guidelines-for-the-reception-of-communion.cfm>

<https://www.pflaum.com/together-in-jesus-first-eucharist-videos/>

## **First Holy Communion Documentation Page**

Please complete the attached First Holy Communion Documentation Page and return it to the Religious Education Office no later than **April 1, 2021**. We need to have this information for the certificates and Diocesan records.

# **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DOCUMENTATION PAGE**

**RETURN WHEN ALL information is completely filled out.  
(This information goes to the Diocesan Office and MUST be correct)  
Please return to the Religious Education Office by April 1, 2021.**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(First Name)

(Maiden Name)

## **Child's Baptismal Information**

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child allergic to wheat? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# **GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION**

*On November 14, 1996, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following guidelines on the reception of Communion. These guidelines replace the guidelines approved by the Administrative Committee of the NCCB in November 1986. The guidelines, which are to be included in missalettes and other participation aids published in the United States, seek to remind all those who may attend Catholic liturgies of the present discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of Eucharistic Communion.*

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## **FOR CATHOLICS**

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

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## **FOR OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS**

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

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## **FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

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## **FOR NON-CHRISTIANS**

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.