

# **Saint Jude Catholic Church**

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GUIDELINES**

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FORMS:**

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion Preparation Form must be completed and returned to the Religious Education Office by November 22, 2019. This form will officially enroll the student in the First Holy Communion Program at Saint Jude Catholic Church. This information will be recorded in the Parish Sacrament Registry.

First Communicants names are printed in the Sacramental booklet and may be published in the Parish bulletin. The Parish bulletin is posted on the Parish website.

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

Class participation is essential for the preparation of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Any student with excessive absences may be considered not properly prepared and the reception of these Sacraments may need to be deferred to a later date.

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT:**

Children and at least one parent are to attend the First Reconciliation Retreat on Saturday, February 1. The retreat will begin at 8:50 am in the church. During this retreat the children and parents will focus on the grace and forgiveness received during the sacrament of reconciliation. Only a very serious reason should necessitate an absence.

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

The children will be celebrating their First Reconciliation on February 8. We encourage you and your family to participate in the grace of this Sacrament again before your child receives his/her First Holy Communion. Picture taking is not permitted during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT:**

Children and at least one parent are expected to attend the retreat. During this retreat, the children and parents will gain a greater understanding of the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. This special day of preparation includes the practice of receiving the Sacrament with unconsecrated hosts.

All children and at least one parent are expected to attend. Only a very serious reason should necessitate an absence.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHEARSAL:**

Children and at least one parent are to report to Saint Jude Church promptly at 5:30 pm. Practice will end promptly at 7:00 pm.

## **COMMUNION DAY:**

First Communicants are to arrive at 9:20 am to the **St. Jude school Cafeteria**. Please be on time. The celebration is approximately 1 to 1-1/4 hours in length.

## **ATTIRE:**

Boys are to wear a suit or sports jacket, white shirt, dress slacks, appropriate tie and proper shoes (no sneakers).

Girls should wear a white or off white dress, veil or wreath, white or off white socks or stockings and proper shoes. Please leave items such as prayer books, rosaries, flowers, and gloves at home. They are not needed and are distracting to the children. No makeup, please.

## **SEATING:**

Pews will be reserved for the First Communicants in the front area of the church.

Pews will be reserved for two parents behind the First Communicants.

Families are asked to be considerate of others and refrain from reserving seats.

## **PICTURE TAKING:**

The reception of a Sacrament is a precious and holy moment in the life of your child. To safeguard a sacred atmosphere in the Church during the First Holy Communion Celebration, parents/guardians, family members and friends may take pictures and record videos only from their pew.

Occasionally photographs are taken during the First Holy Communion celebrations and are used in Parish publications or on the Parish website.

## **QUESTIONS:**

If you have any questions, please contact the PREP Office at (215) 822-9225 (ext. 234) or email us at **[lrawski@stjudechalfont.org](mailto:lrawski@stjudechalfont.org)**