



First Holy Communion 2023

Liturgy Information

- RECEPTION:** Children may receive Holy Communion on their tongue or in their hands. The Church requires that a person fast from any substance except plain water for one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion. The only exception is if there is a need for medication to be taken.
- SEATING:** SVdP has a family-oriented ceremony. Each pew will have one to two families in it. There will be a sign up for the number of people you will need in your pew. There will be a limit to 6 family members in the “family pew”, guests will be seated in the St. Padre Pio owl cove area and behind the families of the First Communicants. The order in which families are seated will be drawn at random.
- ATTIRE:** **GIRLS** – should wear a white dress with white socks or tights and white dress shoes with no or very slight heel (off-white is ok too). There should be no thin or spaghetti straps unless covered by a shrug or sweater. Veils or head wreaths are optional; No gloves are allowed.
BOYS – should wear suit or slacks (khaki is ok) with a dark suit jacket. They should wear a white shirt, tie, and dress shoes with appropriate socks. White suits are also acceptable.
- RECEPTION:** There will not be a reception following the liturgy.
- LITURGY HELP:** We will randomly select a family as Offertory Gift Bearers for each Mass. If you have a family member that is a regular lector or alter server, we encourage and welcome you to participate in the First Holy Communion Mass. Please let Kim know via email that you can serve in this way.
- CERTIFICATES:** First Holy Communion Certificates and a small gift from the parish (and the SVdP School books) will be in each pew. **Please put these aside until after the liturgy and please do not forget them!**
- PICTURES:** We will have a professional photographer; details are being worked out. The photographer will take individual photos as *each* child receives their First Holy Communion. Pre-liturgy individual portraits will be taken of those who have those who have ordered them. We graciously ask that no one other than the professional photographers take pictures during our First Holy Communion Mass as it may interfere with the photographer’s flash, and it blocks the way for the family returning to their seats.
The students may bring rosaries, prayer books, etc. for the use in the pictures. However, they may not carry anything in their hands during Mass.