

FAQ as we approach the First Eucharist Celebration

When do we arrive at church?

First Eucharist families are asked to arrive 30 minutes before the Mass begins.

Bringing in a friend or relative who is a Priest or Deacon or Authorized Minister of Holy Communion at another parish

We welcome others to celebrate with you. If you'd like them to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ specifically to your child, we need to know immediately, as we plan out the positions of all of the Ministers of Communion well ahead of time. Thanks!

Pictures

You are welcome to take pictures before Mass, if you arrive early. Also, during the opening procession, gift procession and after Mass. Please, no pictures especially at the homily time or during the reception of First Communion, to keep the reverence of the Mass. It also makes things confusing if you are taking pictures before Mass, while we are trying to organize the children in their different liturgical roles. You are welcome to stay afterwards and take pictures. We will be livestreaming and recording all of the First Eucharist Masses (at St. Joseph's) so you can watch it or family out of town can watch live or the recorded version on our archives.

Name Banners for the Pews

Our liturgy team will place the banner on your pew and you will take it with you following the Mass, serving as a remembrance of First Eucharist. Families are provided one row and other family members are welcome to sit wherever there might be an extra seat in church.

Certificate for First Eucharist

Your First Eucharist Certificate signed by Fr. Jim will be in your pew. Please take it with you.

Dress for First Eucharist

Girls are most welcome to wear the white; to symbolize the baptismal garment. You are also welcome to wear a regular dress –“Sunday best” clothing. For anyone who purchases gloves, please remove them at the sign of peace and for your reception of First Eucharist. Boys are also welcome to wear a white shirt; to symbolize the baptismal garment. They are also welcome to wear a tie and/or sweater or jacket with dress pants; no jeans, please.

Receiving Eucharist

We encourage the whole family to receive the Eucharist that day. Each family will come forward to one of the two designated spots in front to receive the Eucharist. Your child will receive first. If there are two children, you decide who receives first, but they will receive, then the family. If there is someone who will not be receiving, have them cross their arms in front of them and they will receive a 'blessing' from the minister. Family members from other areas of church may come and join you at that time.

Special Seating in church

If you have a relative who needs special handicapped seating please let us know as soon as you do, so that we can accommodate them.