

First Communion Preparation Packet

Information Included in the First Communion Packet

- Parent Information for First Communion
- First Communion Program Information
- What Your Child Needs to Know Before Receiving
- How to Receive the Eucharist Practice Sheet

Important Dates and Times for 2026 First Communion

Saturday, April 25 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM

Saturday, May 2 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM

Family Banner

The Family Banner will be used to reserve the pew for your family for the First Communion Mass. Material for making your Banner will be ready for you to pick up at the time of your First Reconciliation with Fr. Denis.

Please turn your Family Banner in by, or on April 7, 2026 at the Parish Office.

What to Wear

What to wear is a question often asked: Girls usually wear a white dress (First Communion Dress). Suits or sports coats are optional for the boys (any color). Nice shirts and slacks are fine as well! Please keep “Sunday Best” in mind.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to walk with you in preparing your child for this special sacrament!

God Bless!
Ellen O’Neil
Colleen Misiak

Parent Information for First Communion

First Communion Dates

Saturday, April 25, 2026 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM

Saturday, May 2, 20256 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM

Information will be sent to you the week before your son or daughter's First Communion. For family and friends who are not able to come to the First Communion Mass, please share the following link so they can join us on livestream: <https://olvnorthville.org/> The Mass will, also, be recorded and a link to the recording will be available on the website a few days after First Communion. Relax and enjoy this special day!

The following link will have some helpful information to help you prepare your child to receive their First Communion: <https://olvnorthville.org/first-communion-first-reconciliation>

- How to Receive the Eucharist
- What Your Child Needs to Know
- Eucharist Reflection

Some Important Information for the Day of First Communion

- Please go to your Family Pew when you arrive so your son or daughter knows where you are sitting. The First Communicant should sit next to the center aisle.
- Please put their Name Tag on so Fr. Denis is able to see it easily.
- Your child should be in the Fr. Ernie Center 20 minutes before Mass.
- A group picture will be taken shortly after they arrive in the Fr. Ernie Center.
- After the group picture we will take the children to the Gathering Space and have them walk down the side aisles to meet Fr. Denis at the back of the Church.
- They will then process up the center aisle entering their family pew when they get there.
- Each Family Pew is up to ten people (open seating will be available if needed).
- Fr. Denis will come to the First Communicants to administer Eucharist to them.
- After all of the First Communicants have received, families will go forward for the Eucharist.

Take the time to share a personal reflection with your child about the Eucharist throughout this special day! Continue to share with them how Jesus calls us to love through the Eucharist and how the Eucharist unites us in a special way as part of His Body the Church! The Body of Christ!

What Your Child Needs to Know Before Receiving

What does the Church require for children to receive First Eucharist? The Church asks only what the child is able to give; that is a child's faith and a child's desire.

- Your child should know who Jesus is, some main events in His life, and the story of His death and resurrection. Stress stories of His gentleness, concern for the sick and poor, love of children and His love of His Father.
- Your child should be taken to Mass, and as the liturgy progresses, should be told what is going on and given the opportunity to ask questions. Point out that we give ourselves to God in the Eucharist, and he shows His love by giving us His Son, Jesus. If we love Jesus, we also have to be kind to one another.
- Your child should experience prayer as a regular part of family life. Prayer in the family lets a child see the faith of the adults and that Jesus, His Father and the Holy Spirit are real.
- Your child should be able to tell the difference between Eucharistic bread and ordinary bread. Plain statements of belief are best, such as: The bread in the Eucharist is really the Body of Christ.
- Your child should desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Seeing parents receive the Eucharist in joy and respect helps a child to want to belong and to be part of this experience and community.

How to Receive the Eucharist (practice sheet)

Put your hands in a cupped position (your writing hand should be on the bottom). Making a throne for Jesus.



Hold your hands high enough to be seen by Fr. Denis.

Fr. Denis will place the Eucharist (Body of Christ) in your cupped hands.

He will say, “**The Body of Christ.**”

You will Respond: “**Amen**”

Using your bottom hand take the Eucharist and put it in your mouth.

When you are back in your pew please take this time to pray and Thank Jesus for the Gift of Himself!

