

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 and 11:30 AM

Saturday, May 2 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 Family 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 March 16, 2026 at the Parish Office.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to work 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, 2026 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 has some helpful information to help you prepare your child to receive their First Communion.

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

Some Important Information for the Day of First Communion:

- Please have your child at church 20 minutes before Mass.
- Each family is welcome to invite up to ten people.
- We will escort you to your family pew where your Family Banner will be placed.
- Your son, or daughter's First Communion Certificate will be in the pew.
- Please have your child sit next to the aisle as Fr. Denis will come to each child for their First Communion!
- Eucharistic Ministers will distribute Communion to everyone else after all of the First Communicants have received.
- 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.

Take the time to share a personal reflection with your child about the Eucharist throughout the day. Continue sharing 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. Goldfish Crackers are good to use for practice!

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!

