

FIRST COMMUNION DETAILS

Saturday, May 4, 2024

10:00 am – First Group

12:00 noon – Second Group

I. BEFORE THE MASS

Each First Communion child must arrive with their guests in the main church **at least 15 minutes** prior to the start of Mass.

The First Communion children will be seated in the pews nearest to the altar on each side of the church. Immediately following these designated children's pews, there will be two slots reserved for their accompanying parents or guardians. The pews will be labeled with the children's names to ensure adherence to the seating arrangement. Parents with additional young children attending the celebration should have them sit with other guests seated at the back. Only two seats will be reserved per child.

In addition to their parents or guardians, the First Communion children may invite additional guests to attend the Mass. However, these guests will be seated in any available non-reserved pews on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no limit to the number of guests the children may invite.

Upon entering the church, please approach one of our catechists who will assist in directing you and your child to your assigned pews. At precisely 9:45 am, the children will be gathered by the catechists in the narthex of the church to prepare for the procession.

II. LITURGY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

The Mass of the First Communion will follow this liturgy:

- Call to Worship
- Entrance Procession & Song

- Greeting
- Penitential Rite
- Gloria
- Opening Prayer
- Liturgy of the Word
- Homily
- Prayers of the Faithful

- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Preparation of the Altar and Gifts
- Prayer over the Gifts
- Communion
- Closing Prayer

III. FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

At the Communion proper, the catechists will guide the children individually to approach the priest at the altar through the center aisle. On cue, the parents/guardians will step into the center aisle to accompany their child. They should stand on either side of their child in front of the priest. The priest will then offer the host to the parents/guardians first, but they should not consume it immediately. Instead, they should wait for their child to receive the host from the priest, and then consume their own hosts simultaneously. After receiving Communion, everyone should return to their seats via the side aisle.

To ensure that everyone has a clear view of the altar proceedings, parents should only stand and approach their child when directed by the catechists. As each group enters the center aisle, those remaining in the pew should slide towards the center aisle to await their turn.

Once all the children have received their First Communion, the remaining guests will be invited to receive Communion through the center aisle and return to their seats via the side aisles.

IV. PHOTOGRAPHY

To preserve the solemnity of the Mass, we kindly request that you **silence your phones and refrain from capturing photos or videos during the Mass**. An official photographer will be present, discreetly capturing moments throughout, especially during Communion, so you will be able to secure photos of your child receiving his/her First Communion. Feel free to take as many photos as you'd like **before and after** the Mass.

IV. A. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 10:00 AM GROUP

- The official photographer will be available from 9:00 am to 9:45 am before the Mass begins, offering the opportunity to capture images of the First Communion children and their guests. If you would like to avail yourself of the official photographer's services, please arrive at the church by 9:00 am. At exactly 9:45 am, the children will be assembled by their teachers at the narthex of the church to prepare them for the procession. By this time, we kindly request that all guests also gather inside the church to prepare themselves for the Mass.

IV. B. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 12:00 NOON GROUP

- Following the Mass, the official photographer will remain available for approximately 45 minutes to capture further images. One by one, our First Communion children and their respective guests will be guided to approach the altar as a group for official photographs. This will be facilitated by a catechist to maintain the order inside the church. Once the photos are taken, we kindly request that your child and guests exit via the side aisles.

V. MAY CROWNING AND COMMUNION BREAKFAST

On Sunday, May 5th, all First Communion students **are required to attend the 10:30 am Mass dressed in their First Communion attire**. The flowers that they will be offering to the Blessed Mother will be provided by the parish.

Immediately after the Prayers of the Faithful, the children will be invited to proceed to the rear of the church with their flowers. One of the children, accompanied by their parent or guardian, will process first to crown the statue of Mary on the right side of the altar. Subsequently, the children will form a line and process up the center aisle to the statue, where they will individually offer their flowers before returning to their seats.

The First Communion Reception will follow the 10:30 am Mass in the Parish Hall.

*If you have any questions or concerns,
please do not hesitate to contact the Religious Education Office at
(914) 472-5594 or send an email to spxreled@spxny.org.*