

# CHURCH OF ST. PIUS X

## FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

10:00 am – First Group

12:00 noon – Second Group

### I. BEFORE MASS

Each First Communion child must be present with his/her guests in the main church **at least 15 minutes** before the scheduled start of Mass.

*If you would like to use the services of our official photographer for individual photos of your child and their guests, please refer to the schedule and instructions under Section IV: Photography.*

Upon entering the church, please approach one of our catechists who will direct your child to his/her reserved seat labeled with his/her name and will direct his/her two (2) parents/guardians to their reserved seats. Precisely 15 minutes before Mass starts, the children will be gathered by the catechists into the narthex of the church to prepare for the procession.

Please note the First Communion children will be seated in the pews closest to the altar on each side of the church. Immediately following the designated pews for the children, there will be pews reserved for each child's accompanying parents/guardians. ***There will be only two (2) reserved seats labeled with the name of each child for his/her parents/guardians.***

A candidate's additional guests and family members, including siblings, attending the celebration will be directed by our catechists to the pews behind the First Communion children and their parents; such pews will be available on a first come, first served basis. There is no limit to the number of guests the children may invite.

## **II. LITURGY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION**

The Mass of 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, one of our catechists will direct each First Communion child and his/her two (2) parents/guardians to step into the center aisle to wait for their turn to approach the priest to receive Communion. At the altar, the First Communion child should stand in the middle with one parent/guardian on his/her right and one parent/guardian on his/her left. The priest will hand the host to each of the child's parents/guardians and then the child will receive the host from the priest. The parents/guardians should wait for the child to receive the host and then the child and his/her parents/guardians should consume the host at the same time. After receiving Communion, everyone should return to their seats via the side aisle.

In order to ensure everyone has a clear view of the altar proceedings, parents should stand and approach their child only 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.

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

#### **IV. PHOTOGRAPHY**

In order to maintain the solemnity of the Mass, we ask that you **silence your phones and other devices and refrain from taking photos or videos during the Mass**. The official photographer will be taking photos and moving freely about the church sanctuary (especially during Communion) so you will be able to secure photos of your child receiving his/her First Communion. You may take as many photos as you wish **before and after** Mass.

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

- The official photographer will be available from 9:00 am until 9:45 am ONLY to take photos 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 9:45 am, the teachers will assemble the children in the narthex of the church to prepare them for the procession. By this time, all guests should be seated inside the church to prepare for Mass.
- Immediately after Mass, the catechists will direct the children to the altar for a group photo with the priest.

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

- Immediately after Mass, the catechists will direct the children to the altar for a group photo with the priest.

- After the group photo, the official photographer will be available to take individual/family photos for approximately 45 minutes. The children will be asked to return to their reserved seats if they wish to have a photo taken with the official photographer. Each First Communion child and his/her respective guests will be directed by a catechist to approach the altar as a group starting from the pews farthest from the altar. After the photos, your child and guests should exit the main church via the side aisles.

**V. MAY CROWNING AND COMMUNION BREAKFAST**

On the Sunday after First Communion, all First Communion students **are required to attend the 10:30 am Mass dressed in their First Communion attire and will be given the opportunity to offer flowers provided by the parish to the Blessed Mother.**

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, with the assistance of his/her 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 offer their flowers individually 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](mailto:spxreled@spxny.org).*