

Good Shepherd Church

Important Update ~ 31 December 2020 A.D.
First Penance & Holy Communion



Dear Parent:

A blessed Christmas season to you and your family!

As we approach our upcoming *First Penance and Holy Communion* we like to share with you some information, reminders, and dates/times. Please be sure to keep this update for future reference.

Listed below is an important video link. We ask that you share the video link with your child(ren). The video link is about the Holy Eucharist.

We will continue to monitor state and diocesan regulations on COVID-19. As of this writing we are mandated by safety guidelines. In view of this masks and social distancing continues along with diocesan directives. We will keep you posted on any changes.

We have ordered uniformed masks for children to wear during their First Holy Communion. Illustration of mask below...



If you have any questions/concerns, please advise. Thank you!

Stay Safe...God's Blessings,

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Upcoming Important Dates...

First Penance/Holy Communion Retreat

Saturday, January 30th

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. in Church (all candidates).

Note: please enter through Brown Street doors.

Candidates will receive their First Communion banners and masks.

Masks must be worn in Church.

First Penance Liturgy

Saturday, February 13th

11:30 A.M. in Church (all candidates).

Arrival time is 11:00 A.M.

Note: please enter through Brown Street doors.

Masks must be worn in Church.

First Holy Communion Rehearsal

Saturday, April 17th

12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. for Candidates assigned to 11:30 A.M. Holy Mass

2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. for Candidates assigned to 1:30 P.M. Holy Mass.

Note: please enter through Brown Street doors.

Masks must be worn in Church.

First Holy Communion Holy Masses

Saturday, May 8th

Arrival time is 10:30 A.M. for 11:30 A.M. Holy Mass

Arrival time is 12:30 P.M. for 1:30 P.M. Holy Mass

Note: please enter Brown Street doors.

Masks must be worn in Church.

First Holy Communion Candidates are assigned to the following Holy Mass:

Saturday, May 8th at 11:30 A.M.

Mason R. Assis
Liam E. Bossio
Luke W. Evans
Andria M. Moraca
Ethan Zachary Saint-Phard
Gabrielle M. Schirripa
Emma G. Wrenn
Alivia R. Wroten
Emanuel Scundi
Thomas Scundi
Sophia A. Rochford
Daniella M. Chiacchere
Lucy M. Moriarty
Dylan L. Jean-Charles
Skylar A. Young
Sienna Grace Bennett
Isabella Nicole Burke
Daniela M. Callahan
Vincent B. Khuu
Paul C. Ligresti
Kayleigh A. Malave
Lila R. Miller
Nicholas P. Tomassetti
Lorenzo P. Zirino
Isabella Catherine Wein-Vaccaro
Dylan M. Menjivar
Gianna Marie DeMatteo

Saturday, May 8th at 1:30 P.M.

Giovanni C. Borgese
Drew R. Gallagher
Meaghan K. Kelly
Michael A. Merzon
Dario F. Occhiogrosso
Gabriella Marie Rodriguez
Bridget M. Browne
Joseph Marabello
Vanessa Mavrides
John R. Militano
Megan F. Willson
Meadbh A. Mancuso
Matthew Curcio
Sophia L. Turchi
Forina Foti
Emma Hayes
Anthony Cicoello
Daniel Emilio
Briella G. Gambino
Michael P. Martin
Nella V. Ramos
Joseph J. Condon
Milo R. Condon
Nora E. O'Brien
Preston J. Dailey
Sophia G. Ruberto
Thomas J. Ward
Aoife R. Mancuso

~ Important Daily Prayers ~

The prayers listed below are important for our children to become familiar with. We ask each night that you recite these daily Catholic Prayers with your child(ren).

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

*Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Act of Contrition

*O my God,
I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee,
and I detest all my sins,
because I dread the loss of heaven,
and the pains of hell;
but most of all because
they offend Thee, my God,
Who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve,
with the help of Thy grace,
to confess my sins,
to do penance,
and to amend my life. Amen.*



“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
(John 10:11)

The Holy Eucharist “Sophia SketchPad” - click video link...



Guidelines for First Holy Communion

1) First Communion Attire

Young Gentleman have the option to wear:

- A white shirt with a dark suit
- Dark or light pants and a dark jacket (dark blue, gray, black, etc.)
- Full white suit
- A solid-colored gray, black, blue tie or bow-tie
- Dark/white dress shoes (no sneakers) and socks
- The traditional practice of wearing a white arm band bow on the left arm may be used
- Flower lapel may be worn

Young Ladies should wear:

- A modest white dress which falls below the knees and has some kind of sleeve. Please, if the dress your child is wearing is sleeveless or has spaghetti straps, make sure she wears a white cover-up, jacket, or sweater
- White dress socks or stockings
- White dress shoes (no sneakers)
- A white head covering. This could include a First Communion veil, chapel veil, or flower wreath
- No gloves may be worn
- Flower bouquets maybe presented after Holy Mass. Hands need to be free of any articles

2) Photography - we will arrange for a photographer to take two photos. The first photo will be in front of the sanctuary. The second photo will be taken during Holy Communion. Parents are welcome to take photos after Holy Mass. There are no photos with priests.

Note: it is important that you arrive on time so photos may be taken before Holy Mass begins. There will be no videos (DVD) due to the restrictions of wearing masks.

3) COVID-19 - we will continue to monitor the ongoing State and Diocesan health regulations and guidelines for COVID-19. We will send updates as needed. As of this writing the following directives remain in effect:

- a) Masks are to be worn by everyone entering into the church.
- b) Candidates will be seated in the front of the church with social distancing.
- c) Families may be seated in available pews with social distancing.
- d) No materials may be brought into church. First Communion banners are not permitted to be brought into church. You may display the banner on the outside of the church, hanging from the fence.
- e) The First Holy Communion Holy Masses will be a ticketed liturgy.
- f) There is no entrance or recessional processions.
- g) There is no offertory procession.

h) There is no Communion Song.

i) Proper Reception of Holy Communion:

- Recipient approaches the priest, bows, extends hands outward in the shape of a throne (right hand under left hand).
- Priest will say, “The Body of Christ”
- Recipient will say, “Amen.”
- Recipient steps aside where a teacher will be waiting, lowers mask (does not remove mask), places the Body of Christ on tongue, and lifts mask to cover.

Note: reception of Holy Communion (children will be instructed how to receive Holy Communion during the rehearsal period).