

# FIRST COMMUNION 2020-2021 CALENDAR

Updated 1/11/2020

Date	Day	Gathering/Event	Location
1/11/2021	Mon	FC Parent Meeting 7 pm	Church
1/13/2021	Wed	FC Parent Meeting 5 pm FC Parent Meeting 7 pm	Church
1/19/2021	Tue	FC Virtual Parent Meeting 4:30 pm FC Virtual Parent Meeting 7 pm	Zoom Zoom
1/20/2021	Wed	FC Parent Meeting 5 pm FC Parent Meeting 7 pm	Church Church
1/23/2021	Sat	Online sign-ups for First Communion Masses, Retreats and Practices will be emailed at 8 am	Email Inbox
3/3/2021	Wed	FC Retreat 6:30 to 8 pm	Social Hall
3/6/2021	Sat	FC Retreat 9:30 to 11 am FC Virtual Retreat 2 to 3:30 pm	Social Hall Zoom
3/20/2021	Sat	Date reserved for Retreat if cancelled due to weather	Social Hall
4/5/2021	Mon	FC Practice 5:30 pm (for those receiving on 4/10) FC Practice 7:00 pm (for those receiving on 4/10)	Church Church
4/6/2021	Tue	FC Practice 5:30 pm (for those receiving on 4/10) FC Practice 7:00 pm (for those receiving on 4/10)	Church Church
4/19/2021	Mon	FC Practice 5:30 pm (for those receiving on 4/24) FC Practice 7:00 pm (for those receiving on 4/24)	Church Church
4/20/2021	Tue	FC Practice 5:30 pm (for those receiving on 4/24) FC Practice 7:00 pm (for those receiving on 4/24)	Church Church
4/10/2021	Sat	<b>First Communion Mass, 11 am</b>	Church
4/24/2021	Sat	<b>First Communion Mass, 11 am</b>	Church
TBD		<b>First Communion At-Risk Families Mass</b>	Church

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/blessed/blessed-program-view.html>

The Blessed First Communion program works the same as the First Reconciliation program. You may use the workbook OR the videos to teach the message. It is unnecessary to do both as the videos read the same as the workbook. The workbook does have pages where your children can answer questions and reflect on the lessons. I recommend that you begin working on the lessons as soon as possible so that your children are well prepared.

In addition to the Blessed program preparation, your child's formation for First Communion is based primarily on the celebration of the Mass. Attendance at Mass, or participation in online Mass during the pandemic, is the single best measure you can take in preparing your child for the sacrament.

For preparation readiness, the church asks only that which a child is capable – a child's faith and a child's desire. This is your goal in preparing your child for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

## RETREATS

Currently, retreat opportunities are offered both in-person and via Zoom. In-person retreat opportunities are subject to change.

## PRACTICES

Practices are extremely important in this preparation process, and will be offered to ten students per group. Practices will be offered within a week prior to the Mass you are attending. Practice sign-ups will be offered AFTER First Communion sign-ups are complete.

## HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

Masks will be required by everyone attending, and children will practice receiving the Body of Christ with a mask. Each family will be assigned a pew and will sit no closer than 6 feet from any other families. Your guests will sit with your family, so be sure they are in your bubble. At this time, we believe we can allow 10 guests for each family; changing guidelines and restrictions could reduce that number. All Masses will be livestreamed.

Due to the current restrictions, indoor group pictures will not be allowed; therefore, we will not be bringing in a photographer. You may coordinate a group picture outside before Mass (consider 10 or 10:15 am). You may also access the church for pictures on a day prior to First Communions; be sure to contact the church office to be sure there are no other events scheduled.

## DRESS CODE

Boys: White shirt required. Dress pants (preferably dark – black, navy, charcoal). Shoes and socks complete the outfit. A tie is recommended, and sport coat is optional.

Girls: White dress, dress shoes or sandals; if wearing socks/tights, they should be white. Veils are optional. Gloves may be worn for pictures but not to receive Communion. Please no strapless or backless dresses, no trains, and no mini-skirts. Veils may be worn if short and not covering the face.

**This is not a “pageant” nor is it a “wedding.” Instead attire should suggest innocence.**

## BANNER PACKETS

Banner packets will be used to mark the pew in which your family sits. Creating the banner packet should be used as a teaching tool, as your child helps to attach symbols of receiving First Holy Communion.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Please, no photographs should be taken during Mass.

## SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please be sure to coordinate any special accommodation needs necessary for anyone attending in your family. We have wheelchair accessible seating available. For safety measures, we are currently not able to offer assistance to the hearing-impaired.

## CREATE A HAPPY OCCASION FOR YOUR CHILD

Receiving First Holy Communion is a special occasion in a child’s life to which are attached many memories. Please do everything in your power to create these special memories by leaving all family discord at home and modeling great adult behavior.