



July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders,

Here is an updated letter on the schedule and plans we have for your children's **First Holy Eucharist**. These are the -as of right now- plans. We will keep you updated \*IF\* anything changes from THIS plan, which we will call Plan **August**.



The Sacrament of **First Eucharist** is quickly & FINALLY approaching. Our celebration date is set for **August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020** at 2:00pm. Rehearsal will be the **WEDNESDAY** before (**August 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**) and pictures will be taken on **SUNDAY!**

*Connie Swanson Photography* will be taking pictures of the children. She will take a group photo of all the children and also individual pictures. An envelope with prices and descriptions will be available, as well as, discussed in more detail at the retreat. Families can bring their own cameras or devices to capture the moments of the day, but we ask that you **refrain** from taking pictures and/or videos **during** the actual Mass.

There is no specific dress code for this special day\*. Traditionally for First Eucharist, children have dressed in their best "Sunday" attire. Girls have worn white dress, veils/hair piece and boys have worn white shirts, slacks, ties, vest and/or suit; pastel dresses or shirts are acceptable as well. We trust that as parents, you will find an appropriate outfit for your child to wear on this special day.

\* Typically there is no specific dress code, but we are not in typical times; therefore, your children (as well as EVERYONE in attendance) a **mask will be required**.

My gift to your child for this special day, and with these unique circumstances, is a special white satin mask made just for **their** 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist!

As for the protocol our church has put forth, everyone else attending the service will also need to have a mask.

Our **First Eucharist Retreat** will be on **Sunday AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>** beginning at **11:45 am**.

This retreat is **mandatory**. We need at least ONE parent in attendance with the **2<sup>nd</sup> grader**. This meeting will begin following the 10:30am Mass with a pizza potluck, normally we conclude with dinner but we are not in normal times! Pizza will be provided by the parish - we ask that each family provide 2 of the following: **salad, side dish** and/or **dessert**. We will be making our banners and discussing the importance of this sacrament, so it is asked that this afternoon be for the **2<sup>nd</sup> grade** communion candidates and their parents **only**. Please make childcare arrangements for any siblings. We ask that you make plans to be there for the **entirety** of the retreat, the retreat should be done by 2pm.

As always, I am here to minister to you and your families. If you have any questions, concerns or thoughts, don't hesitate to contact me, my info is below. Thank you for patience, understanding and prayers during this unprecedented time. And I am very appreciative of you sharing your child with us during this special preparation time on their faith journey.

God's peace & blessings,

*Jodi Stauffer*

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PS ...

I assume the question about who can come and how many, etc. may come up...

Here's how we will go forth, hopefully by retreat time we will have a better insight,

Please send me a reply - either text or email - on how many is in your family and how many you anticipate wanting to join your family for this special event.

From there we will figure out if we will be over capacity for the sanctuary.

We have the parish hall set up for overflow, if necessary

**AND** we will also be LIVE Streaming (or at the very least - recording to post afterwards) for those unable to attend.

Also, be prepared that there may be additional opportunities for your children to take advantage of, especially since their class instruction time got cut short.

Please make sure that you work through their Gift of Eucharist Book they received in February.

I appreciate your attention to these formation opportunities.

Peace & blessings,

~jodi ❤️