

The Honor Of Your Presence Is Requested at My Table!

Come, Eat
And be Nourished!

I Love You,
Jesus

First Eucharist
2011

Ministry of Faith Formation
St. Brendan
the Navigator Church



4475 Dublin Rd.
Hilliard, OH 43026
www.stbrendans.net/re_ed.htm

(614)876-9533

Welcome!

MFF Director: *S. Joanne Fogarty, OSF*
Youth Minister: *Stacy Pennino*
Monday Facilitator: *Lynn Mickey*
Sunday Facilitator: *Teresa Boyne*
Secretary: *Suzanne Duffy*
Ministry of Faith Formation Office:
(614) 876-9533

Philosophy and Goals

We are invited to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist every day of our lives, and do so, especially on weekends. Holy Eucharist is a lifelong, ongoing sacrament. The reception of this sacrament is the most frequent and common public experience in a church community.

Families sharing meals together help children understand many concepts that are important to understanding Eucharist. A child grasps concepts like “family” and “belonging” from experiences of sharing. Most commonly this is done at family meals, at special holiday dinners like Thanksgiving and birthdays. Connecting these experiences with the celebration of the Eucharist is not only necessary, but important.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE?

Sacraments are not received in a vacuum. Because catechesis and an understanding of the sacrament are essential, children who enter our program in 2nd grade with no prior catechesis will not be eligible for reception of the sacrament until the following year unless parent directed “make up” work has been completed. The child must also demonstrate a readiness and understanding of the meaning of the sacrament because he/she has actively participated in the 2nd grade course of studies. Attending Mass weekly is *imperative*.

PARENT AND CHILD MEETING

The dates and times of the required parent/child First Communion meetings are:

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

or

Thursday, November 4, 2010

We begin Promptly at 7:00 p.m.
ending at 8:30 p.m.
(in the school MPR)

*You and your first communion child need attend
ONLY ONE of these meetings.*

Note that no other First Communion meetings are being offered. These dates are listed in the church bulletin. They have been posted on our Google calendar on our web page so that you could mark your calendar early and give priority to this meeting. The week prior to the meetings, the same information will be on the Information Only (*1) message on the MFF phone line. We are ALL busy people who cram too many activities into too few time slots. If you have a conflict with either of these meeting dates, please ask yourself which activity or meeting is more important to you?

Remember that it is ONLY by attending one of these meetings that you receive your folder. It has your child’s name on it and contains the registration form for First Communion, along with polices and procedures of this sacrament.

TEACH YOUR CHILD

What can I teach my child and how can I prepare at HOME?

Children watch us and often imitate what we do without knowing why we do what we do the way that we do it!! Just as you teach your children HOW to answer the phone, write a “Thank You” note or complete chores around the house, so must you explain and model for them the gestures and practices we use when receiving the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. As the primary “faith former” in your child’s life, you have the perfect opportunity to do this, but it takes time and a commitment on your part to do it. What should you model and teach?

CHURCH

- ❖ when entering the church we bless our selves with holy water as a reminder of our Baptism with the words, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- ❖ once we get to the side of the pew where we sit, we genuflect facing the tabernacle or bow facing the altar as a sign of reverence
- ❖ when we enter the pew, we kneel down and offer a “greeting” just as we do when we go into someone’s house
- ❖ at special times during Mass, we think about the people for whom we would like to pray

TO RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE HAND OR BY MOUTH

- ❖ we make sure we have washed our hands before coming to church
- ❖ we approach the altar with a sense of joy and reverence
- ❖ we can receive the Sacred Bread either in our open mouths or in the hand
- ❖ we approach the Eucharistic Minister with one hand resting on the other
- ❖ when we hear the person in front of us say “Amen”, we bow in reverence and then approach the minister --when the Minister says, “The Body of Christ”, we answer, “Amen”
- ❖ the minister places the Sacred host in our open hand or mouth
- ❖ we place the host into your mouth and move to the side going to the Wine Minister (Making the sign of the cross is optional)

TO RECEIVE THE WINE

- ❖ approach the Minister of the Cup and when the person in front of you answers “Amen”, bow in reverence
- ❖ when the Minister says, “The Blood of Christ”, we answer “Amen”
- ❖ accept the cup with both hands
- ❖ take a very small sip and return the cup to the minister
- ❖ we fold our hands and return to our bench
- ❖ kneeling down, we keep a time of thanksgiving with your head bowed & eyes closed

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS

2011

Family Celebration

We offer the choice of celebrating **First Eucharist as a Family** at one of the weekend masses. They begin the weekend after Easter and end the last Sunday in May.

OR

Solemn/Group Celebration

Another choice is at the group celebration on

Saturday, May 7, 2011

10:00 a.m. AND 1:00 p.m. ceremonies.

We are happy to say that with the solemn/group celebration, the parent is involved WITH the child—walking into church together, sitting together AND receiving Eucharist when the child does.

PRACTICE FOR THE GROUP CELEBRATION

If a parent chooses the solemn/group celebration, understand that attendance at the practice is **MANDATORY** for the child and *at least one* parent.

Practice for child and parent

Saturday, April 30, 2011

9:00-10:30 a.m. (for the 10:00a.m. ceremony) ***

11-12:30 a.m. (for the 1:00 p.m. ceremony) ***

***meet in the School Cafeteria 15 minutes prior

FEES

Registration & fee returned on or before:

March 1, 2011

\$20.00

Late registrations:

\$25.00

Fee must accompany the registration form.

RECEIVING UNCONSECRATED BREAD AND WINE

There will be an opportunity for the children in MFF and Home Faith to taste unconsecrated bread and wine. The practice will be in the CHURCH on Monday evening, March 7th beginning at 4:45 for the first shift and at 6:30 for the second shift.

Those in the HOME FAITH program are welcome to bring their child to one or both of these tasting sessions.

St. Brendan School students will be offered a time to practice the tasting when the second grade teachers request it.

DRESS CODE

First Communion Day is special. We do not dictate the dress code. You, as parents, choose the dress code for your child. White dresses, veils for the girls and suit coats/shirts and ties for the boys are optional but many children choose to wear them.

We are dedicating the month of June to remembering in thought and prayer our First Communion children. We invite them to wear their First Communion clothing to all masses they attend in June.

FELT FIGURES

Every first communicant will receive a felt figure to decorate. This figure is to be used to represent your child and will be hung on large banners during March, April & May. The figures may be decorated in any way that you and your child would like, but it is intended to represent your child’s interests. Every year this banner is a delight for all parishioners to see. Felt figures may be turned in anytime, but no later than March 1, 2011. It will be returned to you as a keepsake at the end of the Easter season.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS

Information will follow at a later date for Professional individual and group photos.