

PRACTICE...PRACTICE...PRACTICE...

A must for at least one adult and the child
if you choose Group Celebration!!!

For the last several years, we have provided an opportunity for our parents to walk into church with their First Communion child and receive the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time WITH the child during the ceremony on First Eucharist day! However, in order for YOU and your child to participate in this group celebration, it is necessary that a parent be present with the child for the practice session which occurs one week before the parish group liturgy. Please make sure you understand this before choosing the GROUP celebration over the INDIVIDUAL celebration. If YOU cannot make the commitment to be at practice, DO NOT CHOOSE THE GROUP CELEBRATION. There is NO practice time needed for those families who choose to celebrate Individual First Eucharist at one of the weekend masses.

Since First Communion is on Saturday, May 1st, practice will be the Saturday morning before, April 24th from 9-10:30 a.m. and again from 11-12:30 p.m. depending on the time you have chosen for the reception of the sacrament. Please mark your calendar for the date and time of the practice as you read this so that no other interruption will be recorded that morning.

Important also is the need to take your child to weekend mass with you where you can teach him/her how to:

- sign themselves with holy water when entering the church
- how to genuflect facing the altar or tabernacle
- how to say a prayer of “greeting” when first entering the pew
- how to think about the people for whom you’d like to pray
- how to use a simple child’s mass book and follow the happenings during the mass
- how to talk about the homily on the way home from mass...ask your child what he/she heard, even though the homilies are directed to adults!!
- explain HOW to receive Eucharist and drink from the cup (optional, except on First Communion Day) and how to say a prayer of thanksgiving after receiving. After all, the word “Eucharist” means “thanksgiving.”
- after mass, stop by to say “hello” to the priest or deacon and let your child introduce himself or herself with the words...”My name is _____ and I am going to make my First Holy Communion this year!!!”

Most of all, explain what a privilege it is to worship and honor the God who has given us everything! We do this at mass each weekend.