

Policy for First Eucharist Celebrated on Sundays

Arrival & Seating Arrangements

Families and guests are advised to arrive early (20 minutes before Mass starts) to meet Jim or Emily (or First Eucharist Coordinator) by the Baptismal Font to be taken to their assigned places. Seating for the families and guests will be reserved in the first pews in sections 3 and 4 (the middle two sections).

Introduction at the beginning of Mass

During the greetings and introductions at the beginning of the Mass, the children who are celebrating First Eucharist and their parents will be asked to stand and be introduced.

Children's participation in the Liturgy

Children will not read the Scripture or the Intercessions during the Mass. However, they are invited to participate in the Offertory Procession. Jim or Emily will call the families to arrange this before each weekend.

Movement for Reception of the Eucharist

We invite parents (and godparents if they are present) to come forward with the child who is celebrating First Eucharist. We ask the rest of your family and guests to wait in their seats until all children, parents (and godparents) have received. The First Eucharist Coordinators will usher the children and parents who are receiving First Eucharist.

Let the First Communicant child come first, followed by parents (and godparents).

The presiding priest will stand in the center and will give the Host to the children and their parents (and godparents). After receiving the Host move to the side on which you are sitting to the Minister with the chalice to receive the Precious Blood. Return to the far end of the pew where you were sitting, and wait until the rest of your family and guests have moved forward to receive the Eucharist, then move back through the pew to your original places. Non-Catholics and younger siblings are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Ask for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

Final Procession

The children will be called to stand on the sanctuary steps to receive a sung final blessing. Then the children are invited to join the priest and servers in the final procession, and then gather in the Narthex to be greeted by the parish community.

Photographs

Flash photography during Mass is prohibited, but discreet still or video photography is allowed, if it does not disturb the Mass. Also, families may arrive early and take photos before Mass. The priest will stay for family photos in the Narthex after Mass, after the congregation has dispersed.

Certificates

First Eucharist certificates will be distributed to all students on the day of the celebration.