

Please practice with your children. Thank you!

*Prayer Before
Reconciliation*

St. Pio, I know that going to confession is good, but sometimes I forget what to say. Sometimes I'm embarrassed to tell the priest all of my sins. You helped people make good confessions during your life. Now that you're in heaven, please help me to be honest and make a good confession. Amen.

*Prayer Before
Holy Communion*

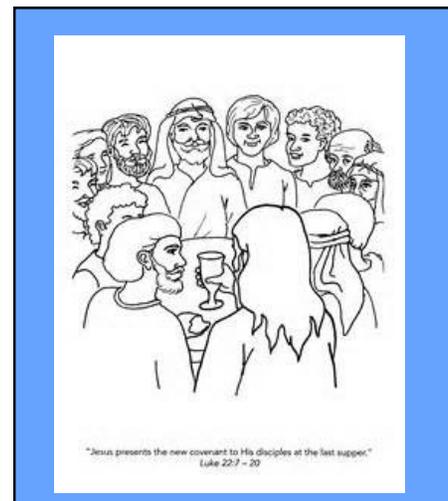
Sweet Jesus, with this Holy Communion, I offer You today my thoughts, my words, and all I do. Let Your grace help me to be always ready to receive You. Amen.

*Prayer After
Holy Communion*

Sweet Jesus, Your miracles are very great. Your greatest miracle is to give Your Body and Blood to us in Holy Communion. I know that this is You Yourself, and not just bread.

I thank You for giving Yourself to me, Let this Holy Communion bring me closer to You, my Lord and my God. Amen.

*St. Mary's Visitation Parish
First Reconciliation &
First Holy Communion 2018*



*Parent Meeting
September 10, 2017
Parish Atrium
10:10AM-10:50AM*

**Please practice this with your child between now and 1st Communion Day.
Thank you!**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated

Questions

If you have any questions please contact:
Elizabeth Harrison
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Important Dates at a Glance

First Reconciliation Rehearsal: Wednesday, January 10th
7:00 p.m. in church.

First Reconciliation Celebration: Saturday, January 13th
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. in church.

Bread of Life Day: Saturday, April 14h- 10:00 am - 11:30 a.m.
This is a morning retreat to pray and learn.

- Tour Sacristy with Father Peter
- Marian Center 1st Communion display
- Mystical Maze
- Adoration Chapel

11:30– 12:30 Optional goblet craft
Meet in the Parish Atrium. *One adult to accompany each child.*

First Communion Rehearsal: Thursday, May 3rd
6:15-7:30 pm. We will meet in church.

First Communion Mass: Sunday, May 6th, 1:30 pm.
Please arrive by 1 pm and take your child downstairs to the church basement (children's area of church).

May Crowning Devotion and Prayer: *Date Pending.* Children are asked to come dressed in their 1st Holy Communion attire for this wonderful devotion.

First Communion Day – Sunday, May 6th 1:30PM

First Communicants must arrive at the church by 1 pm.

Please make sure your child eats something before noon and takes care of their physical needs before arriving at church. When you arrive, please escort your child to the church basement where they will line up for Mass.

Seating- First Communion Day

The First Communicants will be seated together in the front reserved pews. Parents are given seating arrangement after the Parent meeting in September.

Photography

A photographer has been hired to take individual photographs of each child receiving their First Holy Communion and a large group photograph of the First Holy Communicants immediately after Mass on the steps of the Sanctuary. These photos are included in the \$55.00 Sacrament fee.

AFTER the professional photograph is taken, parents will have an opportunity to take a group picture as well as their own individual pictures. Please be respectful of the sacredness of the Sacrament, the photographer and the space. Pictures taken without regard to this may jeopardize the group picture. No refunds will be given.

*****Flashing lights and clicking cameras distract the participants and detract from the sanctity of the sacramental celebration.**

**ABSOLUTELY NO PHOTOGRAPHY OR
VIDEO
WILL BE ALLOWED DURING MASS!**

Recommended resources for learning more about the Eucharist:

Scripture:

Jn 6:22-68; 1 Cor 11:23-32; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1322-1419

[*Living a Sacramental Life*](#)

7 Secrets of the Eucharist, by Vinny Flynn. Ignatius Press, 2006

The Eucharist, the Heart of Life, by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (BXVI). Ignatius Press, 2003.

Celebrating the Holy Eucharist, by Francis Cardinal Arinze. Ignatius Press,

A Key to the Doctrine of the Eucharist, by Abbot Vonier. Ignatius Press

Our Splendid Eucharist, Reflections on Mass and Sacrament, by Raymond Moloney Ignatius Press

The Blessed Eucharist, by Fr. Michael Mueller CSSR. Tan Books

The Holy Eucharist, Our All, by Fr. Lucas Etlin. Tan Books

Bread of Life Day

All First Communicants are required to attend the Bread of Life Day on **Saturday, April 14th, 10:00am – 11:30 a.m.** We will meet in the church atrium. Each child must be accompanied by at least one adult.

The children will be divided into 4 groups of 8 or 9, depending on the total number of children present. The children should pickup a group number from Ms. Elizabeth when they arrive.

The Bread of Life Day will consist of the following activities:

10:00- Children and parents will gather in the church atrium for a welcome and introduction to the day. Then, children will break into groups.

10:15AM-11:15AM— Children and parents will go to their first station by group number. Each group will start at a different station and move from the starting station to the next numerical station in 15 minute increments.

Example: Group 4 starts at station #4. In 15 minutes, Group 4 goes to station #1, then station #2 and so on.

Group 1: Station 1-Will go to sacristy tour with Father Peter

Group 2: Station 2-Will go into the church through the Mystical Maze.

Group 3: Station 3-Will go to the Adoration Chapel

Group 4: Station 4 -Will stay in the parish atrium to visit the Marian Center 's 1st Communion table.

11:15-11:30 We meet in the atrium for a closing prayer.

Spiritual Communion

Each child will pray a spiritual communion prayer and in the Adoration Chapel. We ask that the children and parents to take turns if the chapel is filled.

Marian Center Onsite

The Marian Center is a Catholic Book and Gift store located in nearby Milwaukee and owned by parishioners. They will be present with a small selection of gift ideas for 1st Holy Communion in the Parish Atrium for your family to browse. Please bring cash, credit card or check.

Goblet Craft

Creating a chalice at 11:30 in the school cafeteria is an optional event. If you would like to do so, please order the ceramic goblet through Elizabeth Harrison no later than Good Friday, March 30th by making a check to SMV Parish for \$25. No cash please. When the goblets are ready for pick up I will notify you via email. You can pick up your child's goblet from La Terraza located at 1520 West Bluemound Road. We not are displaying the completed chalices at church. It is yours to keep at home as a memento.

First Reconciliation



Rehearsal

All children must attend the First Reconciliation rehearsal in church on **Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00PM** with a parent. In the past, rehearsals have lasted approximately 30 minutes. We ask that everyone arrive at least 5 minutes early and please be seated in the church. There is no assigned seating.

First Reconciliation Day

Saturday, January 13th 10:00-11:00 a.m. Please arrive at least 5 minutes early to be settled before Father Peter starts the service. Reconciliation certificates are given to the child by Elizabeth Harrison in the church atrium after receiving the Sacrament. *Please remember to leave church quietly when your child is finished.* We want to maintain a quiet and sacred atmosphere for those waiting in line for Reconciliation.



First Communion

Rehearsal

All children must attend the First Communion rehearsal in church on **Thursday, May 3, 6:15 p.m.** with a parent. In the past, rehearsals have lasted approximately one hour. There will be a name tag in the atrium for your child to wear during the rehearsal. We ask that everyone arrive at least 5 minutes early to ensure that the rehearsal starts on time.

Attire

First Communicants will be expected to dress appropriately.

Boys will be required to wear dark pants, a white shirt, a tie, and dress shoes. Optional: a sport coat or suit is optional, but not required.

Girls are required to wear a white dress. Head accessories are optional, i.e. veil, flowers or similar adornment. No gloves will be allowed during Mass for reception of the Eucharist.