

First Communion Grade 2 Spring 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Students,

As we prepare for First Communion in our parish for those children in grade two, I have prepared this information video which will take the place of a regular Parent Meeting. This is necessary due to Covid regulations. We will be providing registration forms to all of our schools. Simply fill it in and return to the school with a copy of your child's baptism certificate. Below is some information about these celebrations.

First, we have scheduled two First Communion Masses per each school to allow for social distancing required in the church. Dates for these are available from the school and also on our parish web site. Each child will be seated in centre of a row and you can have a maximum of 8 others sitting in that row with them. You decide who they will be. No one else will be able to attend the celebration. Our music directors will be providing the music, as no choirs are allowed at this time.

During the celebration everyone is required by law to be wearing a mask as you are all used to at this time inside. Myself and our new Associate Pastor, Fr. Paul Patrick will distribute communion in two rows at the front. Communion will be received in the hand, you may want to practice with your child at home using a piece of flat bread. The practice in the Diocese of Hamilton at this time is to have the priest say, "The Body of Christ" while holding the Host up to everyone. Everyone responds "Amen". During Communion there will be no dialogue. You simply receive communion and consume.

Diocesan policy also asks that children are not involved in reading during the Mass. We will have teachers or parents do readings.

It will not be possible to have any group photos at this time. But, we will arrange some procedure to allow each child with family to come to the front of the church after the celebration to have a photo on their own, with their family, and with the priests, if you wish.

Dress is the usual for First Communion.

We will try to arrange some way of visiting and speaking with the children at the schools and to practice receiving with unconsecrated hosts before the celebrations. Though things will be a bit different under these circumstances, we hope it will be a joyful celebration for them and all of you.

I thank you for your understanding and for the support of our grade 2 teachers and principals.

If things have changed in the New Year in terms of regulations, we will make adjustments as required.

We look forward to these celebrations, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us at any time.

God bless,
Fr. Mark