



First Eucharist Rehearsals and Masses 2017 Information Sheet

Registering for a First Communion Date and Mass Time:

- Confirm your date or register tonight at the retreat or
- Contact Theresa Krohn at 763-762-7409 or theresakrohn@saintvdp.org
- When you are sure of your date but no later than April 1.
- *Be sure to select your date and time based on the rehearsal you can attend.*

First Communion Rehearsal & Mass Schedule:

Attendance at the rehearsal is required at the specific rehearsal for the specific Mass for the child and one parent/guardian. Rehearsals are in the church.

Please select the date and time for your Mass based on the rehearsal you can attend.

Rehearsal	For	First Communion Mass
Tuesday, May 2 at 5:45 – 6:45 pm		Saturday, May 6 at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 – 8:00 pm		Sunday, May 7 at 9:00 am
Wednesday, May 3 at 5:45 – 6:45 pm		Sunday, May 7 at 11:00 am
Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 – 8:00 pm		Sunday, May 7 at 1:00 pm

First Communion Attire:

See the back of this sheet.

Photos at First Communion Mass:

No photos or videos are allowed during the Mass at any time, including during the blessing of the children.

- *Toward the end of Mass, the children will be invited into the sanctuary for a blessing and will remain there after the recessional (closing) song. (No photos allowed at this time.)*
- *After the recessional song, we will line up the children in the sanctuary.*
- *At the coordinator's signal, family and friends may come up and take photos of the children.*
- *After Mass, family and friends may also take individual photos of the children or children and family, etc., anywhere in the church. **Please be mindful that there is another First Communion Mass after the 9:00am and 11:00 am Masses so you will need to take photos in a timely manner to allow for set up for the next Mass.***



First Eucharist Attire

A Word of Caution: What the young people wear should not become a major issue. The children need to be comfortable. Certainly First Communion is a special occasion and demands "special clothes"; whatever one chooses to be "special."

The Focus of First Eucharist: The major emphasis of First Eucharist should be on spiritual formation and being invited to the Lord's table to receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time, not external dress. There is no need to spend a great deal of money on clothes and accessories that the child might only wear once.

Dressing for First Eucharist: We encourage you to have your children dress "special" for this is a special day. Our suggestions, but not requirements, for you are:



Boys: +White dress shirt, tie optional (most wear tie, some wear suits)
 +Solid color dress slacks
 +Clean shoes, no broken laces

Girls: +Solid color pastel or white dress (most wear white). No bare shoulders. (This means no spaghetti straps or strapless dresses.)
 +White ankle socks or white stockings
 +Clean shoes, low heels, no broken laces
 +Hair/Head: Flowers, white headband, or simple veil. Veils are available in the gift shop.
 +Preferably, no gloves. Gloves may be worn only before Mass and during the procession into the church. Then they must be taken off until after Mass.

Parents: This is a dress up in your "very best" occasion.

Questions to Consider: When it comes to deciding how to clothe a child, ask yourself:

- What will be the child's focus: the clothing or receiving Jesus?
- Is this liturgy a celebration of the child or the paschal mystery of Christ?
- Are we making a "fashion" or a "faith" statement?

A Personal and Communal Celebration: First Eucharist is a day of personal and communal celebration. While it is a step in the personal faith growth of the child, it is not a private matter between Jesus and the child. It involves the whole Church represented by the parish community and individual families. "First Communion unites us not only with Jesus, but with all our brothers and sisters in Jesus." We hope your child will participate evermore fully in the life of the Church.

Questions?: Contact Mary Ann Marschall, Coordinator of Grades 1-6 Faith Formation, 763-762-7406; maryannmarschall@saintvdp.org.

